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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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CPA's revenue up 48% in 2024

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reports that it has seen an increase of 48% in airport revenue in the last fiscal year compared to fiscal year 2023.

Recently, CPA has submitted its 2024 citizen centric report to the CNMI Legislature and has reported that the agency has seen an increase of 48% in Airport revenue in the last fiscal year compared to the

See CPA on Page 4

IN CHCC FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Auditor finds $2.7M in cumulative questioned costs

» **CHCC personnel share corrective action plans to address the audit findings**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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CORRESPONDENT

An independent auditor has found that cumulative questioned costs of $2.7 million in several federal programs have been set forth in the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s single audit report ended Sept. 30, 2019.

Auditor Ernst & Young disclosed that the questioned costs of $1,946,149 were for fiscal year 2019 and $791,456 for FY 2018, or for a total of $2,735,605.

CHCC chief financial officer Perlie Santos, Community Guidance Center director Reyna Saures, grant administrator Vincent Camacho, procurement director Cora Ada,

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Atkins Kroll completes relocation to Puerto Rico

RACQUEL FLOYD
Atkins Kroll Saipan general manager Tracy Guerrero poses beside the two Lexus cars on the showroom of the spanking new $23-million Toyota and Lexus Sales and Service Center located in Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Puerto Rico.

» **Holds tour for media members**

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Atkins Kroll, an Inchcape company, soft-opened yesterday its $23-million Toyota and Lexus Sales and Service Center located in Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Puerto Rico, a testament to their commitment to the community, regardless of economic cycles, according to AK Saipan general manager Tracy Guerrero.

The new facility was conceived when the economy was still strong and was completed despite the economic downturn.

"The idea (new facility) came when the economy

See ATKINS on Page 4

SHS, Parker Project serve over 300 animals in 5 days

CHRYSTAL MARINO
Visiting veterinarian Dr. Karter Neal performs surgery last Thursday at the Kagman Community Center.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

In a tremendous effort to help and treat the animal population on Saipan, Saipan Humane Society in partnership with Parker Project served and treated 361 animals in a successful spay and neuter clinic last week at the Kagman Community Center.

SHS shared that from Nov. 9 and Nov. 11-14, the Parker Project team led by veterinarian Dr. Karter Neal, performed 287 surgeries and served 361 animals. In a conversation with SHS co-founder and director of clinical services Ruby Ma, she shared that the team had been hard at work for around 10-hour shifts per

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INSIDE

BUSINESS
Bank of Guam, in partnership with IP&E, IT&E, and Pacific Points, is honored to donate $20,830 to Make-A-Wish Guam and CNMI.
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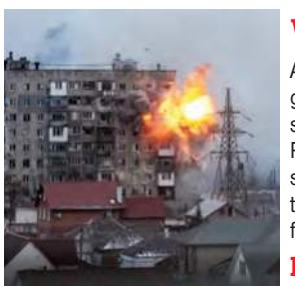

WORLD
As the brutal Ukraine war of attrition grinds toward its 1,000th day, neither side seems eager to negotiate. President-elect Donald Trump has said he could quickly end the war, though it is unclear how or in whose favor he might tip the scales.
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LIFE & STYLE
Victoria Kjær Theilvig of Denmark has been crowned Miss Universe, beating out Miss Nigeria at the end of 73rd edition of the competition in Mexico City.
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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Maritita sworn in as Rota MVA board member

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

After the seat being empty for several months, Dwayne Lizama Maratita was sworn in as Marianas Visitors Authority board member representing Rota last Friday at the MVA office in Garapan.

Maritita expressed his excitement in joining MVA and he hopes he can help bring more tourists to his home island.

Maratita was born and raised on Rota with a background as an officer with the Transportation Security Administration. He also worked for Bank of Guam and Bank of Saipan before getting into government service in 2003 as a Student Support Services coordinator with the Rota campus of Northern Marianas College.

Following his stint at NMC, Maratita became a resident department head for the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and worked with former Rota mayor Efraim Atalig as a public relations officer.

Maritita also gained experience as a grant writer for the Office of Grants Management under the Office of the Governor.

Now that he's appointed to the MVA board, Maratita shared he is happy to put his considerable experience in helping bring more tourists to his home island of Rota and the rest of the CNMI.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Dwayne Lizama Maritita was sworn in as Marianas Visitors Authority's new Rota representative last Friday at MVA's office in Garapan.

"I'm so glad to be here, and I'm honored. I will do everything in my power and my best ability to serve the community and serve the people."

Maritita also shared recent developments on Rota to improve it as a tourist destination, including the acquisition of several statues.

"We already have the sculptures on Saipan and so we're setting up shipping them over to Rota. We're looking at probably installation by mid-December or early January. That's something new for our tourist sites back home. There are six wildlife and one 14-foot Chamorro chief statue that we're going to be placing. We're going to be placing the statues at the ancient latte quarry... That's a new attraction for Rota and I'm absolutely guaranteeing that that's going to enhance our tourism activities on Rota."

He said tourism has just been hard on Rota lately, but is optimistic that one step at a time, he hopes to see it thriving once again.

"When I was growing up you can't even enter mom and pop stores on Rota because there's so much tourists. That's what I want to bring back. Slowly but surely, maybe not at that volume, but of course, with all the concerted effort, like I said, with the assistance of the Office of Governor. We're so grateful from the beginning, and the governor has always been assisting us as well as the lieutenant governor. That's one thing, is to put a plan in place, a strategic plan, so that we can be able to sustain the tourism industry on Rota and the entire region."

Maratita said he is very optimistic about the future of the tourism industry on Rota despite the CNMI's current economic crisis.

"I'm sure that alongside with the Office of Governor, like I said, with Marianas Visitors Authority, we will achieve what is necessary just to maintain it. We're not looking at a million tourists coming in in the next couple of years or so, but gradually, it's a process. And what it takes is just coming together and really devising a plan and sticking to the plan, and eventually everything will work. I always have been a believer in sustainability. As a grant writer, it's important that at any time that you submit a proposal, you emphasize it, you reiterate it's a sustainable plan. So that's important to me. All CNMI residents should be grateful for having an awesome team here at MVA. Like I said, I'm grateful that I was given this opportunity."

MVA managing director Chris Concepcion shared Maritita's enthusiasm about the future of the CNMI's tourism industry.

"We're very excited. Rota is going to be represented on our board, finally. It's been vacant since Agida T. Quitugua Manglona resigned earlier this year. So, we're excited to have him on board. He will bring his experiences with him and he's going to be able to work with us to bring in more tourists to Rota."

MVA board chair Gloria Cavanaugh echoed the same sentiment.

"It's been a while, I think since March, when Rota was represented on the board of directors. We're very happy that director Maritita was finally confirmed and then comes on board. I mean, just from today alone, he seems to be very eager to help his community on Rota through the MVA. We're very excited about him being part of it and we're hoping that he'll be able to immerse himself into what we do and what we're all about."

Umbrella group of Filipino organizations elects new officers

UFO

The newly elected officers of the United Filipino Organization-CNMI pose for a group photo after elections last Nov. 17 at Sun Palace in Susupe.

The United Filipino Organization-CNMI held its elections at Sun Palace in Susupe last Nov. 17.

The election was well participated by voting delegates from each UFO member organizations—Bayani Association, Bicol Association, Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers and Architects, Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants, Northern Mariana Bartenders Association, Santo Nino Prayer Group, Tau Gamma Phi, and incumbent UFO executive officers. A representative from Samahang Ilokano, a new member of the UFO, was also in attendance to witness the election.

Outgoing UFO president Birhen Martinez, who presided the election expressed her gratitude to members and volunteers of UFO for their continued support and dedication to the organization. According to Martinez, the election was a success, and she is positive that with the leadership of newly elected officers, the UFO will continue to remain strong in its vision and mission.

The newly elected executive officers of the United Filipino Organization-CNMI are:

- Carlito Marquez – president
- Edmin Elayda and Joselito Espino – vice presidents
- Mildred Pabilando – secretary
- Valention Cruz – treasurer
- Melanie Galapon – auditor
- Segundo Lapeceros – public relations officer

Marquez briefly addressed the group and humbly thanked everyone for their vote of confidence and asked for continued support to UFO under his leadership.

Induction of new member organization and installation of officers and board of directors will be held on Jan. 4, 2025. ***(PR)***

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **JARELYN A. VILLACANAS** whose picture appears above is no longer connected with SUCCESS INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION effective October 1, 2024.

Any transaction made by her on the company's behalf will not be honored. Please report & call us at 670-322-1558 of any unauthorized activity .

We decided to release this Notice to the public ***to avoid any confusion & circumstances*** where people might decide to work with her because of a perceived continuing business relationship with SUCCESS INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION.

Please be guided accordingly.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND Floor Arrival Bldg.
PO BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP • 96950-1055
Phone: (1-670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-006-25

PASSENGER BOARDING BRIDGES PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICE AND REPAIRS FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority ("the CPA") is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposal ("the RFP") and other contract provisions, for awarding a contract to provide maintenance, service, and repairs to its three (3) Passenger Boarding Bridges (PBB) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

The Proposal Package is available for pick-up beginning October 18, 2024, at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport, upon a non-refundable payment of $100.00 in cash, cashier's check, or by credit card. Bidders must submit all required documents listed in the RFP Package. All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged the proposer awarded for this project. Proposers shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

A pre-proposal conference will be held at 10:00 a.m., November 08, 2024 at the CPA Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building. The purpose of this conference is to allow potential proposers an opportunity to present questions and obtain clarification relative to any facet of this solicitation. While attendance at this conference will not be a prerequisite to submitting a proposal, proposers who intend to submit a proposal are encouraged to attend. Any site visit may be coordinated with Zachary Reyes of the CPA by calling telephone numbers (670)237-6535. Questions regarding this procurement should be submitted in writing through the CPA Airport Manager via email at frank.duenas@cnmiports.com on or before close of business, November 13, 2024.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Preventive Maintenance Service and Repairs of the three (3) Passenger Boarding Bridges, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport /RFP-006-25". One (1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:00 p.m. Local Time, November 19, 2024**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the submittal deadline shall be rejected and returned unopened.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this RFP; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid/proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the proposal would not be in the best interest of CPA. The CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would not be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This RFP shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

Date: October 18, 2024

McDoulett explains complexity of immigration law and its implications

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

RACQUEL FLOYD

The presentation of Joey McDoulett, fifth from the left, was concluded with a photo with the Rotary Club of Saipan officers last Tuesday afternoon at Mari Bar of Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

Immigration lawyer Joey McDoulett outlined the complexities of immigration law in his presentation as guest speaker at the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting last Tuesday at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

McDoulett covered three things about immigration law which includes its complexities, the importance of getting advice from somebody who's qualified to give it, what the CNMI-Only Transitional Woeker program is right now, where it came from, and what are the prospects for the future of immigration law specifically in the CNMI.

"I've already said it a couple of times, immigration law is complicated. People do not believe or understand how complicated it is. It is second only to the tax code. It is even more complicated than the tax code because of how long it is and how many regulations and statutes it covers. It incorporates by reference statutes and regulations from labor and employment, from family law from every state."

McDoulett explained the involvement of five federal agencies in governing different aspects of immigration law also leads to inconsistencies and complications wherein even basic citizenship is subject to differing interpretations among these agencies.

"Some would think simple concepts like who is a U.S. citizen? They all don't agree. Probably the one that you would think up first is USCIS, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, obviously they're involved in immigration. The Department of State, they're the only entity that grants visas. USCIS doesn't have anything to do in granting a visa. So, the Department of State grants visas, Customs & Border Protection, even if you've gotten a visa or gotten status granted to you in the United States. Every time that you enter the United States, you are reevaluated for whether or not you're inadmissible. That applies to a permanent resident. The executive office of Immigration Review is the agency that's in charge of reviewing any of the decisions made by Immigration and CBP. Finally, the Department of Labor, and that might be the department that you guys are most familiar with, in regard to some of the applications that you deal with, because they are the ones that decide whether the labor certifications are valid."

Furthermore, McDoulett discussed the unique nature of the CW visa, which is specific to the CNMI and serves labor needs not met by the local population.

"The CW visa status is unique to Saipan. It doesn't exist anywhere else in the United States and it serves a valid and important purpose and it has since, I guess, the first CW visas were issued in 2011...But it was created in recognition of the fact that we have a desperate need for labor in the CNMI and that the population of the CNMI is not sufficient."

The immigration lawyer explained the conservative view of Congress regarding immigration benefits and the limitations placed on the CW program. He also mentioned the difficulty of obtaining CW visas and the importance of employers exploring options for hiring.

"Congress has always had this very kind of conservative view of immigration that they want to control it. They don't want immigration benefits to be issued to people outside of permanent residents and U.S. citizens... They tried to limit it, so they put a cut-off date on it, and the cutoff date has been extended to December 2029."

He expressed uncertainty about the future of the CW program and discussed other options available such as an H1B visa based on professional skills or a temporary non-skilled labor visa which is more expensive and more difficult to acquire labor certificates.

"Now, the complaints that all employers have is we tried, but we still can't meet our needs. I don't know if Congress is going to listen. I really don't. I don't know if in the next four years, if our ability to expand CW or push it past December 2029 is going to be available to us," he said.

McDoulett emphasized the responsibilities in reporting CW visa employees, and he warned against employers giving legal advice to employees and shared an example of the John Pickle Company in Tulsa, Oklahoma that faced legal consequences for doing so.

He stresses the importance of maintaining a clear separation between employer responsibilities and employee legal issues and he advised employers to refer employees to qualified legal professionals for immigration-related questions.

Furthermore, he underscored the importance of truthfulness in immigration applications to avoid legal complications and potential deportation.

He emphasized the need for thorough and accurate information in immigration applications to avoid future legal issues.

The presentation ended with McDoulett thanking the audience and reiterating the importance of seeking qualified legal advice for legal matters.

Name: Eden G. Ordas
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Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 287-4639
Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTHOF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Petitioner for the Change of Name of:	] FCD CN CIVIL] ACTION NO.] 24-0441]
PDGL Minor Child(ren) By: EDEN QUILLO ORDAS Petitioner(s)	] **NOTICE OF HEARING**]]]]

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on Dec. 16, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Honorable Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 6th day of November, 2024.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/_____
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp Website: http://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com

AMENDMENT No. 1

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) NMHC IFB 2025-~~001~~ 002

(This ad is paid by NMHC by HUD funds)

BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: December 03, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

Vehicle Lease of 3-Sport Utility Vehicles (SUV) for the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program in Saipan

Bid information and packet is available on November 18, 2024, at the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net by clicking on the "Procurement Tab" or at the CDBG-DR website at www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

Inquiries regarding this bid shall be submitted to Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net or facsimile at (670)234-9021, on or before September 10, 2024, no later than 10 a.m.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Acting-Corporate Director

/s/ Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane
Chairwoman
NMHC Board of Directors

NMPASI
NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.
PO Box 503529, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel. Nos.: (670) 235-7273/4 - Fax: (670) 235-7275

Request for Proposal

The Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI) is soliciting proposals for Audit of financial and compliance audit for fiscal year ending **September 30, 2024.** NMPASI is designated, federally funded protection and advocacy system for persons with disabilities in the CNMI. NMPASI uses a variety of individual and systems advocacy approaches to protect people's rights, including legal and administrative remedies, legislative, policy change and trainings. Proposals for the financial and compliance audit shall be submitted to NMPASI, P.O. Box 503529, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than **December 20, 2024.** The audit shall be performed in compliance with the following guidelines:

1. Generally Accepted Auditing Standards;
2. OMB Circular A-133; and
3. Compliance with the general Requirements Applicable to Federal Financial Assistance Program.

Award will be based on specific factor such as prior experience, technical competence, ability to meet the deadline and price in this order. The contract for this audit will be awarded no later than January 10, 2025, and a final audit report shall be completed by March 30, 2025. A list of specific audit requirements and Agency's profile are available at NMPASI office, Marianas Business Plaza, 5th floor, Room 505. Any questions regarding this matter can be addressed to Mr. Gregory Borja, Executive Director at (670) 235-7273/4 (voice) or email at gborja@nmpasi.org.

Man, woman each facing $100K bail for trafficking meth

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Following Drug Enforcement Task Force sting operations, a man and woman were arrested for trafficking methamphetamine. The duo appeared before the NMI Superior Court in Susupe yesterday for their bail hearing.

A cash bail of $100,000 each was placed on Nick Cena Patulot and Minyan Jiang aka "Sister" yesterday before the two were placed back into the custody of the Department of Corrections. During their bail hearing the two were scheduled to appear again before the court for a preliminary hearing on Nov. 27 and an arraignment on Dec. 2, 2024.

According to court documents, Patulot, a Filipino resident of Saipan, was arrested following a detailed investigation conducted by the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force. Patulot is accused of trafficking methamphetamine, commonly referred to as "ice," in violation of CNMI laws.

DPS

A Department of Public Safety mug shot of Minyan "Sister" Jiang.

DPS

A Department of Public Safety mug shot of Nick Cena Patulot.

Authorities initiated their investigation after a cooperating defendant provided information about Patulot's alleged drug distribution activities. The investigation involved two controlled "buy-walk" operations on the same day, both meticulously monitored and documented by law enforcement.

During the first controlled buy operation, the CD purchased $150 worth of methamphetamine from Patulot in Chalan Kanoa. Under surveillance, the CD met with Patulot, who exchanged a small bag containing a crystalline substance for the money. The substance was later tested and confirmed to be methamphetamine, weighing approximately 1.3 grams.

Later that afternoon, the DETF conducted a second operation where the CD purchased $560 worth of methamphetamine from Patulot near Downtown Market in Oleai. Similar procedures were followed, including surveillance, use of recording devices, and secure handling of evidence. This transaction resulted in the acquisition of 4.2 grams of methamphetamine.

Both transactions were recorded, and the substances were tested using a TruNarc analyzer, confirming their identity as methamphetamine. Following these operations, authorities gathered sufficient evidence to support charges of trafficking and possession of controlled substances against Patulot.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

ATKINS

From page 1

was still really good, but we continued through and finished the project despite the downturn in the economy. Looking back historically, throughout the CNMI's history, you know that there are times when the economy is booming and there are times when it's not, and then it's a cycle, right? This is really a statement to our commitment to the community, you know we've been operating for 57 years, and we'll be here for another 57 years or more, longer, hopefully operating in this facility," said Guerrero in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

Furthermore, she discussed the four Ps of marketing when asked about the possible effect of moving from the previous location which was centrally situated at the Microl Intersection named after their original company, Microl Corp.

"When you think about marketing, there are 4 P's right, its product, placement, promotional, and price. So, you know placement for sure is important where we are located. That was a great location Microl Intersection) because it was centrally located right in the middle of the intersection. It's called Microl Intersection, after Microl Corp. which was the original name of the facility before Atkins Kroll purchased it. We're very sad to leave that location but we firmly believe in our product."

Despite the new location being slightly further out of the way, the company believes in the superiority if their product and customer loyalty.

"We believe that people come to us because they want to buy our product and that our product is superior. We think that customers who really want to purchase a vehicle will come and see us down here, even though it's a little further out of the way, plus Saipan is not that big."

Meanwhile, an exclusive media walk-through of the Atkins Kroll 48,000-square-foot state-of-the-art facility facilitated by Guerrero and AK Aftersales manager Vince Tudela was held.

The media group toured the areas including the sales and after-sales, the service department, and the rent-a-car division.

The showroom was designed to offer separate experiences for Toyota and Lexus customers and highlighted the growth plans of the brand and the new facility's features.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

AUDITOR

From page 1

and several other CHCC personnel shared with the auditor their corrective action plans to address the audit findings.

CHCC participates in a number of federally assisted grant programs by the U.S. government. These programs are subject to financial and compliance audits to ascertain if federal laws and guidelines have been followed.

Ernst & Young submitted their report on CHCC's compliance for each major federal program to CHCC chief executive officer Esther L. Muna on Nov. 7, 2024.

Ernst & Young was hired by the CNMI Office of the Public Auditor to audit CHCC's compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget Compliance Supplement that could have a direct and material effect on each of CHCC's major federal programs for the year ended Sept. 30, 2019.

Ernst & Young also audited the financial statements of CHCC as of and for the year ended Sept. 30, 2019, and has issued their report on Nov. 7, 2024.

Ernst & Young believes that their audit provides a reasonable basis for their qualified opinion on compliance for major federal programs.

Ernst & Young, however, noted that their audit does not provide a legal determination of CHCC's compliance.

The auditor found that CHCC did not comply with requirements regarding five federal programs or cluster names.

The programs involved are Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children; Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children with Serious Emotional Disturbances; Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Projects of Regional and National Significance; Immunization Cooperative Agreements; and Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Grant Program.

Ernst & Young did identify 13 deficiencies in CHCC's internal control over compliance to be material weaknesses. The auditor in its report discussed only the $1,930,718 in total questioned costs.

Material weakness in internal control over compliance refers to "deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis."

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

CPA

From page 1

previous fiscal year.

According to the report, in fiscal year 2024, CPA's airport revenue totaled $11,867, 369. This was a 48% increase from FY 2023 where Airport revenue totaled $7,976, 886. In FY 2022, CPA's airport revenue was at $4,096, 939.

CPA's airport revenue comes from aviation fees and concession and lease income.

In aviation fees, CPA earned $8,387,908 in fiscal year 2024, a huge leap from revenue generated in fiscal year 2023 of $4,463,903. This revenue is generated from landing fees and terminal rental fees.

As for concession and lease income, CPA garnered a total of $3,479,461, a little less than what they received in 2023 at $3,512,983.

"Operating revenues for the airports increased by 48% as compared to FY 2023. The increase was due in part by the return to operations of limited international flights and the continued implementation of new rate methodology. Aviation fees include landing fees and terminal rental rate charges. Other sources of revenue include parking fees, permit fees, and citation and training fees," said CPA.

While CPA saw an increase in airport revenue, CPA saw a decrease in airport expenses in fiscal year 2024 compared to 2023.

According to the report, CPA's airport expenses for fiscal year 2024 was $13,629,753, a 9% decrease compared to fiscal year 2023 where CPA's expenses reached $14,992,513.

CPA's largest airport expense is personnel costs at $5,308,219, followed by utilities at totaling $2,901,949.

CPA also saw an over 5% increase in property and casualty insurance costs in fiscal year 2024 compared to fiscal year 2023 and had to pay $2,380,951.

Although there was a decrease in expenses, CPA saw an over $1.76 million deficit in airport finances for fiscal year 2024.

"Overall fiscal year 2024 operating expenses were decreased with a 9% overall reduction. Although personnel costs were reduced due to the implementation of austerity measures, the savings were negated by an increase in property and casualty insurance costs," said CPA.

SHS

From page 1

day, accomplishing around 40 spay and neuters a day with 80 surgeries on Wednesday alone, a feat for the team especially with one veterinarian "we also did some special surgery too, [such as] mass removal...

"The main organization we are collaborating with this time is called the Parker Project. They have been doing, spay and neuter clinics stateside, and the main vet is Dr. Karter Neal." Ma said that the past days have gone super smooth with Neal at the helm leading a highly efficient team.

Ma shared the that they wanted to bring the team to Kagman especially after hearing many incidents.

"I think like last year, we have been hearing a lot of dog fight accidents, dog bite accidents. There are a lot of strays in Kagman. That's why we wanted to host a spay and neuter clinic here. It's easier for us to find a stray or friendly neighborhood dog that may need help here. The other thing is we are located in Garapan, so Kagman is kind of far away, so we want to bring access to care to the community."

Parker Project director Alex Mays shared that during one of her interactions with SHS president Lauren Cabrera, she found out about the lack of a veterinarian on Saipan and wanted to help.

"The goal was for us to be able to come in and do this spay and neuter clinic while they're able to kind of still just provide the veterinary care on that side. We kind of started talking about it a year ago, and Dr. Karter has come in on a lot of my clinics with me, and she's been the one on top of it to make sure we got the clinic here."

She shared that aside from the fundraising they did to make it out to Saipan, Neal paid most of the expenses and for her team to come down.

"I was able to kind of have a base to get out here with Dr. Karter. She has a separate non-profit, Asavet Veterinary Charities, and she paid for her whole staff to come out here to provide the services for free. And she brought her surgical supplies, and I brought surgical supplies as well. But I didn't even have to use any. Now I can hopefully be able to donate that to their clinic. I think, honestly, I want to give a huge shoutout to Asavet Veterinary Charities because they funded so much of their way out here. "

Neal shared that coming to Saipan the main goal was to help counter the overpopulation of dogs.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

MVA joins World Travel Market

Casting a wider net to attract travel investors and visitors to the Marianas, the Marianas Visitors Authority talked travel trade and CNMI tax structure at World Travel Market on Nov. 5-7, 2024, in London.

World Travel Market organizes six annual business to business events across six continents, creating opportunities for travel industry professionals to network and negotiate with exhibitors and fellow participants. In addition to sharing tourism information at the Marianas promotional booth, the MVA recruited the expertise of managing partner David Burger of Burger Comer & Associates to entice potential investors with the tax advantages available in the Marianas.

"World Travel Market is an opportunity for us to reach beyond our traditional source markets and meet with potential partners from the entire world. We were able to share details about our destination and what makes the Marianas an ideal place to visit and do business," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "In our B2B meetings, what we heard is that the European market is looking for new and exotic destinations. They love food, adventure, culture, history—and the Marianas offers all of that and more. We took advantage of the opportunity to share about our favorable tax structure and incentives like our qualifying tax certificate program administered by the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority, which are both great advantages to doing business in the Marianas."

The MVA also held individual meetings with travel agencies, tour operators, airlines, television programs, key opinion leaders and social media influencers during the event. Participation in World Travel Market was fully funded by a federal grant administered by the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.

More than 4,040 global exhibitors from 184 countries and 46,316 individuals attended the event, with over 34,000 prescheduled meetings held. ***(PR)***

MVA

Japan, Korea, and the Marianas were among more than 4,000 global exhibitors from 184 countries participating in Travel Market London on Nov. 5-7, 2024. The Marianas Visitors Authority promoted the Marianas and its tax structure and qualifying certificate program to 46,316 attendees of the event.

MVA

Managing partner David Burger, right, of accounting firm Burger, Comer, & Associates joins the Marianas Visitors Authority in meeting potential tourism partners at World Travel Market London on Nov. 5-7, 2024. The MVA promoted the Marianas and its tax structure and qualifying certificate program to 46,316 attendees of the event and alongside more than 4,000 global exhibitors from 184 countries.

Ogo in full support of J&P Holdings' $8M investment in passenger air services

ROTA—Rep. Julie Ogo is pleased to announce her full support for J&P Holdings, LLC, a well-respected local company that has proudly served the CNMI community for over 30 years, excelling in skydiving and air cargo services within the Marianas. With a proven track record of dedication and commitment to the region, J&P Holdings has become a trusted name among residents and businesses alike.

Ogo

J&P Holdings is now taking a major step forward by proposing an investment of over $8 million to expand their services to include air passenger transportation within the Marianas. Ogo views this project as a vital advancement in enhancing interisland connectivity and increasing accessibility for all community members. She wholeheartedly supports their application for a Qualifying Certificate through the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority.

"This investment by J&P Holdings marks a milestone in breaking the current monopoly on air passenger services within the Marianas," said Ogo. "Their expansion will make airfare more affordable and accessible for inter-island residents, travelers, and tourists alike, ultimately benefiting the entire community and promoting greater movement across our islands."

The proposed expansion promises to reduce airfare costs, allowing more people to travel affordably and conveniently between islands, which will further boost tourism and strengthen regional connections.

"This is a milestone achievement that aligns with our vision for an interconnected, accessible CNMI," added Ogo. "I am confident that J&P Holdings' initiative will bring lasting economic and social benefits to our islands."

Ogo looks forward to seeing the positive impact this expansion will have on the community and is eager to support the growth and accessibility that this project will bring to the Marianas. ***(PR)***

Faha Digital Media soliciting short film proposals

Faha Digital Media is officially soliciting proposals in the form of regrant applications by CNMI-based/resident storytellers to conceptualize, develop, create, produce, and film a three-piece film series (each film shall be at least 3 minutes and up to 5 minutes long) or one short film (up to 15 minutes long) that showcase the unique life, culture, history, language, and/or nature of the Northern Marianas.

Interested storytellers may email Faha Digital Media directly for the full scope of work package.

For any questions or further information, contact Faha Digital Media executive director Shannon Sasamoto via email at shannon@fahadigitalmedia.org or program officer Daisy Demapan via email at daisy@fahadigitalmedia.org.

Faha Digital Media is a 501©(3) and CNMI tax-exempt nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering and amplifying Marianas voices and stories by offering training, financial support, and a platform to talented storytellers interested in taking the Marianas digital. Faha Digital Media envisions a future where all Marianas stories are told and voices are heard. ***(PR)***

Sanitary inspections of food establishments for October 2024

During the month of October 2024, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Environmental Health Disease Prevention conducted sanitary inspections on retail, eating, and drinking establishments. Through this release, EHDP is providing names of establishments by inspection grade, names of establishments which were ordered to close for serious violations of health and sanitation standards. For these establishments, we provide the suspension date and the date they were certified to resume operations.

Classifications for Food Safety Rating for an establishment receiving a score of:

- 0-10 demerits Grade A
- 11-20 demerits Grade B
- 21-30 demerits Grade C
- less than 30 closure/suspension

Saipan Grade A

1. Twinkle Kids Land, Chalan Laulau
2. Sugar Fusion by Hyrish, Koblerville
3. D' Yummy Food Snack Bar, Chalan Kanoa
4. MJ Kitchenette & Catering, Garapan
5. Café De Hei, Garapan
6. Daystar Fish Store, Chalan Laulau
7. Toha Market, San Antonio
8. Yaya's Baked Goods, Kagman
9. Grotto Restaurant, Garapan
10. Kiss KTV, Garapan
11. Galleria Restaurant, Garapan
12. August Supermarket, Garapan
13. Black Pool Bar, Garapan
14. Happy Bar KTV, Garapan
15. Spices Superstore, Gualo Rai
16. Payless Super Fresh Truckload Store, Chalan Kanoa
17. Mobil Mart Station, Garapan
18. Mobil Mart Station, Tanapag
19. Brother's Market, Kagman
20. Stop N Shop, Kanat Tabla
21. Tenda Market, Koblerville
22. Green Consume Market, As Lito
23. Royal Supplies, Koblerville
24. River Billiard Club, Gualo Rai
25. DFS Airport Shop, Saipan International Airport
26. DFS Saipan T-Galeria, Garapan
27. Milosun Restaurant, Garapan
28. Piggy House Restaurant, Chalan Laulau
29. Bravo Kitchen & Bar, Garapan
30. Bourbon Street Bar Café, Garapan
31. TJ Catering, Garapan
32. Kuri-Ya Japanese Cuisine, Gualo Rai
33. Saipan Laulau Development, (all food and drinks outlets), Kagman
34. Friendly Kitchen, San Jose
35. La Mesa Kusina, Garapan

Tinian Grade A

1. Toni's Catering, San Jose
2. Kalayaan Catering, San Jose
3. Triple J Bakery, San Jose

Rota Grade A

1. TJ Bakeshop, SongSong
2. Anne's Convient Store, SongSong
3. Sinapalo Safeway, Sinapalo 1
4. Bepari Enterprises LLC, Sinapalo
5. Pacific Red Hot Peper, Sinapalo
6. Rota Crystal Purified Water, Sinapalo
7. Tokyo En, SongSong

Saipan Grade B

1. Mo's Restaurant, Chalan Kanoa

For more information, contact the EHDP office at (670) 236-2022/27/28, or email the administrator of EHDP, John Tagabuel, at john.tagabuel@chcc.health.

For more information about CHCC programs, follow EHDP on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

This press release may be found online at http://www.chcc.health/pressrelease.php. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Progressives now learn to love the Senate filibuster

News outlets called the last outstanding U.S. Senate race this week for Democrat Ruben Gallego of Arizona. That gives Republicans a 53-47 edge in the chamber after picking up four seats.

And suddenly there's silence from Democrats on eliminating the filibuster and packing the Supreme Court. Apparently it wasn't about principle and preserving "democracy," after all. Who knew?

For the past few years, progressives have been agitating to change the rules in the Senate to allow passage of controversial bills by a simple majority vote. In 2021, 100 House Democrats signed a letter urging their Senate brethren to kill the filibuster, which allows senators to hold up legislation unless 60 of their colleagues prefer otherwise. "We cannot let a procedural tool that can be abolished stand in the way of justice, prosperity and equity," the letter insisted.

In fact, the movement had nothing to do with "justice, prosperity and equity" and everything to do with a raw power grab that would allow Democrats to enact a number of radical proposals, including statehood for Washington, D.C., expanding the Supreme Court and killing the Electoral College.

Heading into last week's election, most Senate Democrats—including Nevada's Jacky Rosen—made clear their intention to bury the filibuster if their party kept the White House and the upper chamber.

But that was then, and this is now.

The website Fast Company reported this week that it contacted a dozen Democratic senators who had voiced support for ending the filibuster and "none responded." In addition, Fix Our Senate, a coalition of left-wing groups that demanded an end to the filibuster, has "shut down its website."

Notably, one of the signers of the 2021 House letter, Rep. Pramila Jayapal, a Washington Democrat and chair of the Progressive Caucus, said at a news conference last week, "Am I championing getting rid of the filibuster now when the (GOP) has the trifecta? No. But had we had the trifecta, I would have been."

Political hypocrisy reaches a new low. As an amusing thought experiment, imagine the response from Rep. Jayapal and her fellow travelers if Republicans—in the spirit of bipartisanship—said they would soon neuter the filibuster and add six seats to the Supreme Court.

Republican Sen. Mitch McConnell, who is stepping down as his party's leader, said last week that the "filibuster will stand" under the GOP majority. As outgoing Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., stabilizes our democracy, promotes bipartisan cooperation and protects our nation from partisan whiplash and dysfunction."

Progressives vilified him and Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., for standing firm against their party's efforts to erode minority power. After the election rout, they should send them both gift baskets.

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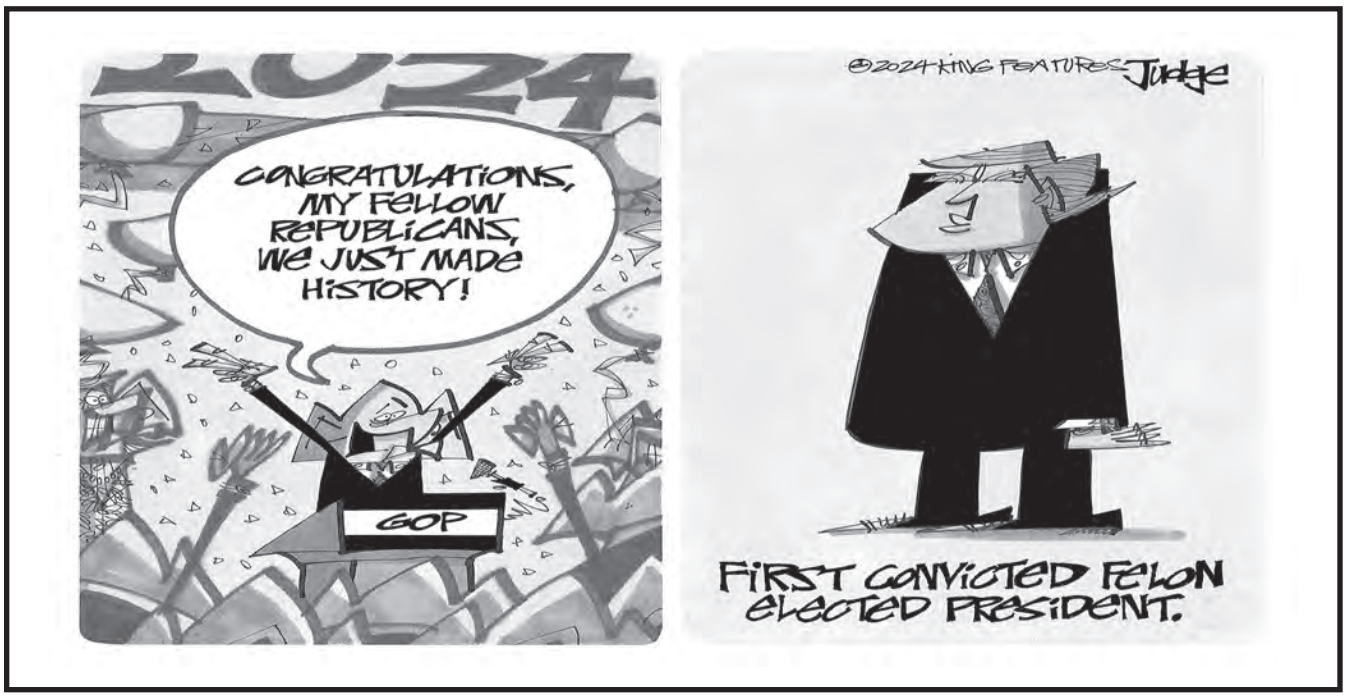


Trump's staggering win isn't a landslide. Democrats, learn the lessons and move on

By JACKIE CALMES
Los Angeles Times

Jackie Calmes is an opinion columnist for the Los Angeles Times *in Washington, D.C.*

After months of obsessing over the presidential contest, it was jarring to tune in to the annual Veterans Day commemoration at Arlington National Cemetery and see President Joe Biden center stage. The all-but-forgotten president is too literally a lame duck; his stride has given way to a shuffle. He looks lost. He tried to project force in his tribute, but you braced for the verbal trips.

Why did Biden think he could serve another four years?

He's so diminished from the politician I've covered for 40 years, from the Senate through the vice presidency to the White House. I initially respected his judgment not to retire, as Democrats did. In late 2022, Biden turned 80, but he celebrated unusually good midterm election results for his party and one of the most successful first two years of any president (the Afghanistan withdrawal aside). He'd won landmark legislation, such as the infrastructure law, that will have benefits for years.

And for the next four, Donald Trump will be stealing the bragging rights.

Midterm is when Biden should have announced that he wouldn't run again, that he'd be the "bridge" to new leaders as he'd said in 2020. That he selfishly didn't give way until far too late in 2024 helped doom Democrats' chance of keeping the White House, and thus dealt a blow to his own legacy. History will be kinder to him than Democrats currently are, let alone the voters, but that's little consolation now.

Now, however, it's time for his party to look forward. More than a week after the voters' verdict, Democrats should stop the finger-pointing. They can look backward long enough to identify, and learn from, the mistakes that enabled the election of a past president who still denies his 2020 defeat, connived to overturn it, incited an insurrection and snubbed the peaceful transfer of power—all detestable firsts.

What comes next is confronting Trump, whose early decisions—Fox News host Pete Hegseth for Defense secretary! Matt Gaetz for attorney general! Elon Musk as de facto vice president!—suggest the radicalism and overreach that lie ahead.

Also, their recriminations obscure the fact that Kamala Harris ran a close race, almost certainly closer than Biden would have.

When all votes are finally counted, Trump's margin of victory will be two percentage points or less—the smallest since 1968. Democrats didn't expect to keep their slim Senate majority even if Harris prevailed, and their candidates won in several states that she lost, limiting Republicans' new majority. Republicans have kept the House majority, but barely—and we've seen how hobbled they've been by their fractiousness when they have no votes to spare.

For all Democrats' self-flagellation about seeming arrogantly out of touch with Americans, especially on the transgender rights issue that Trump so effectively used against Harris, voters in many cases took their side on ballot measures for abortion rights, a higher minimum wage and mandated paid leave, even in red states. Trump vows mass deportations, but exit polls showed a majority of voters say undocumented immigrants should be able to apply for legal status, as Democrats favor.

The issue of immigration was among the three "I's" that damned Democrats overall, along with inflation and Biden's incumbency. Harris, overly deferential to the man who elevated her, not only didn't do enough to separate herself from the unpopular president, she gave Trump's ad makers a gift when she told a friendly inquisitor on "The View" that "not a thing comes to mind" that she'd have done differently from Biden. That was a rare mistake for Harris in a challenging late-starting campaign, but a big one.

The only thing worse than Democrats' backbiting would be denialism. Democrats aren't in denial. They recognize that Trump's gains over his past showings were staggering for their breadth. He did better in most counties, including in Democrats' urban bastions and even the Bronx and Queens district represented by the left's icon Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. "The working class is not buying the ivory-towered nonsense that the far left is selling," Bronx Rep. Richie Torres tweeted, including "absurdities like 'Defund the Police' or 'From the River to the Sea' or 'Latinx.' " Never mind that neither Biden nor most Democrats used those terms; they didn't push back much either.

Trump's wresting of the working class from Democrats is near-complete. The only question is whether its backing is unique to him or will transfer to post-Trump Republicans.

As annoying as Democrats' squabbling is, it's the sign of a healthy party to look inward after losses. That the Republican Party didn't do so after its defeats in 2018, 2020 and 2022—and echoed Trump's antidemocratic denials in 2020—is a symptom of its ill health under his sway, despite this year's victories. Democrats correctly lament that their far left has had too much influence, if not real power, but the far right doesn't just influence the Republican Party, it runs it. That will be a problem going forward.

For now, however, the problems at hand are Democrats'. What helped make their erosion in cities and suburbs so catastrophic is that they long ago abandoned rural America. It's time to rebuild in both places, or at least try.

The party has a deep bench for the reconstruction ahead. One of its talents, Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear, offered constructive advice in a New York Times op-ed on Tuesday—he had me at "I refuse to play the blame game" — though his Rx mostly described what Democrats are already doing, or attempting, such as expanding affordable healthcare. Still, it's a start.

Meanwhile, one of the party's big problems soon will take care of itself: In two months, Biden finally cedes the stage.

How Trump can leverage an economy Americans dislike

By JUSTIN FOX
Bloomberg Opinion

Justin Fox is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering business, economics and other topics involving charts. A former editorial director of the Harvard Business Review, he is author of "The Myth of the Rational Market."

President-elect Donald Trump has spent the past few months portraying the U.S. economy as an epic disaster in need of radical action. That turns out to have been good politics. Unfortunately, it also means he's made a bunch of bold promises to fix the economy when not meddling with a good thing is probably the best course.

Far from being a disaster, the U.S. economy is currently the envy of the world. Unemployment is low, inflation is falling, real wages are up and productivity is high and rising. That most American voters aren't impressed can be chalked up to lingering effects of the inflation wave of 2021-2022, a frozen housing market, a recent slowdown in hiring, partisan polarization and a lamentable lack of familiarity with comparative international economic statistics.

The memory of that inflation wave will fade—Trump won't be blamed for it in any case—and Federal Reserve rate cuts should over time help get home sales and hiring back on track. The simple passage of time will work wonders.

Another argument for less is more is that political stability and predictability are good for the economy. That's why Wall Street usually likes partisan gridlock in Washington and why the rule of law promotes economic growth. In 2016, economists Scott Baker, Nicholas Bloom and Steven J. Davis—the latter two possibly familiar to readers for their much-cited research on the work-from-home revolution unleashed by the pandemic—devised an index that measured economic policy uncertainty based on newspaper coverage and found that:

Policy uncertainty is associated with greater stock price volatility and reduced investment and employment in policy-sensitive sectors like defense, health care, finance and infrastructure construction. At the macro level, innovations in policy uncertainty foreshadow declines in investment, output, and employment.

Since then they've added information on expiring tax provisions and economic forecaster disagreement to the index. It shows a sharp increase in uncertainty early in the COVID-19 pandemic, and a mostly declining trend since.

A compelling historical case for the benefits of reduced policy uncertainty can be found in Bill Clinton's presidency, specifically the final three-quarters of it. After a failed attempt at comprehensive health-care reform and then a wave election in 1994 that put Republicans in charge of both houses of Congress for the first time in 42 years, President Clinton was forced to curtail his domestic policy ambitions — and was rewarded with an economic boom and the highest second-term approval ratings of any president on record (the record in this case starting with Harry Truman).

A key contributor to that Clinton economic boom was rising productivity enabled by Silicon Valley breakthroughs. Given recent advances in artificial intelligence, a similar boost is not out of the question in coming years.

Trump will also start out his second term with several near-automatic uncertainty reducers. The debt-ceiling brinkmanship that delivered repeated spikes in the economic policy uncertainty index in the 2010s is something that happens with a Democratic president and Republicans in charge of the House, so there's little risk of that even if Democrats eke out a House majority. The Republican penchant for putting regulation on hold is, whatever its long-term consequences, a short-term uncertainty damper. And by electing Trump and (probably) a Republican congressional majority, voters seem to have ensured that the provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 that were due to expire next year won't.

The chances of Trump sitting tight are, I realize, slim to none. Presidents generally try to make good on their campaign promises, and Trump has promised mass deportations, sharp tariff increases, a grab-bag of tax cuts and an assault on Federal Reserve independence that taken together would probably slow economic growth while putting upward pressure on inflation, deficits and economic uncertainty. Trump's election victory is already making it seem less likely that the Fed will be able to continue cutting rates.

The economic backdrop is so favorable right now that growth will probably continue despite all this meddling. I'm not predicting disaster. And I understand that, with the electorate grumpy about the economy, being seen to do something about it is important. But Trump has proved to be a uniquely adept communicator, a man who could surely convince his fans that he was taking drastic action even while doing nothing at all. And at the moment, that would be the best economic policy.

How could voters choose both Trump and AOC? Pay attention, Democrats

By ROBIN ABCARIAN
Los Angeles Times

Could self-flagellating Democrats and their gleeful critics please calm down for one stinkin' minute?

Before remaking an entire party based on one election loss—albeit a devastating one—let's look at some numbers.

As the final votes are tallied, it appears that President-elect Donald Trump has received 75.1 million votes while Vice President Kamala Harris received 71.9 million. That is a victory margin of just about 2 percentage points.

In 2020, when President Joe Biden beat then-President Donald Trump, he received nearly 81.3 million votes to Trump's 74.2 million, a victory margin of 4.5 percentage points.

Did Republicans call for introspection? Did they spill barrels of ink wondering where they went wrong? Did they slit their wrists in frustration and vow to start courting the college-educated "coastal elites" they'd spent years vilifying?

Oh please. We all saw what happened next.

Led by Trump, Republicans engaged in a systematic and illegal scheme attempting to overturn the results of the election. To this day, they cling to the fantasy that Trump won. I laugh when Trump tells his rally-goers that he received more votes in 2020 than any other previous presidential candidate. That was true. But he failed to add that Biden received even more votes than Trump, something Trump is pathologically unable to accept.

(And, I hate to break it to the president-elect, but to this day, Biden has received more votes than any other single presidential candidate. Oh, and in case anyone has forgotten, Barack Obama's 2009 inauguration crowd was much, much bigger than Trump's in 2017.)

Of course Democrats must engage in serious analysis about what went wrong and how to win back the young men, Latino men and so many working-class voters who deserted the party this year. But that does not mean all the fundamentals of the Democratic platform and philosophy are wrong.

Democrats were disadvantaged in a number of ways. Biden's decision to stay in the race long after he should have bowed out proved disastrous. After he handed the nomination to Harris, she had a mere 100 days to establish herself, to differentiate herself from him and his deeply unpopular policies. She failed to do so in a way that was persuasive to voters.

Her failure was also in thinking that positivity could counteract negativity. The failure was in not fully grasping the amnesia Americans were experiencing about Trump's disastrous response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The failure was in not being able to convey the successes of the Biden administration.

Trump whipped up hatred, resentment and fear, which, ugly and disingenuous as it was, helped persuade voters that he cared about their struggles. Sure, inflation is down, wages are up and the economy is humming along strong. But high prices smack you in the face every time you shop for groceries.

And if someone tells you often enough that you are in pain, or that you were better off when the pandemic was in fact killing hundreds of thousands of Americans, you might actually start to believe him.

Bill Clinton, whose move to the right in 1992 felt like a betrayal to the left wing of his party, was able to persuade voters that he felt their pain. Harris was not.

And of course, Harris' failure was in not being able to counteract the right-wing information sphere. Trump figured out how to court the bro vote. Harris did not. MAGA Republicans were immeasurably aided and abetted by social media algorithms—which trade on rage and anger for engagement—by billionaire tech bros such as Elon Musk, who turned X largely into an alt-right cesspool, and of course by the conservative-dominated media conglomerates that spout lies that rile up voters.

Fox News, guiltier than any other single outlet for spreading the 2020 big election lie, ended up agreeing to pay Dominion Voting Systems nearly $800 million for defaming the company, whose ballot machines worked perfectly well. That is three-quarters of a billion dollars, folks. Rudy Giuliani, Trump's personal lawyer, spread so many vicious lies about Georgia poll workers Ruby Freeman and her daughter Wandrea "Shaye" Moss that a court ruled he should pay them $148 million for defamation.

Countless other Trump believers are in jail, bankrupt or unable to practice their professions because Republicans simply could not bear the idea that they had lost.

Despite all of that, the Republican Party in its current form never, not even once, had a great public moment of introspection.

Instead, it doubled down on lies and on whipping up fear about vulnerable populations while exploiting Democrats' weaknesses.

"The people who watched Trump's television ads during sporting events had not been harmed by a transgender person, or by an immigrant, or by a woman of color," wrote the historian Timothy Snyder in the New Yorker. "The magic lies in the daring it takes to declare a weaker group to be part of an overwhelming conspiracy."

Instead of the circular firing squad Democrats have formed post-election, they should hunker down for the fight against the cruel, inhumane and potentially earth-shattering policies coming our way. And be open to learning from the voters who deserted them, or split their votes between Trump at the top and a Democrat further down the ballot.

New York Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, whose progressive politics have made her a favorite target of Republicans, asked her social media followers to explain why they cast their ballots for both her and Trump.

"I actually want to learn from you and hear what you're thinking," she said.

The responses were enlightening.

"Real simple," wrote one. "Trump and you care for the working class."

"I feel like Trump and you are both real."

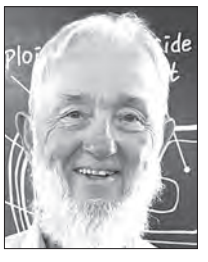
"Voted Trump, but I like you and Bernie. I don't trust either party's establishment politicians."

Democrats should take these sentiments to heart and act accordingly. It's not their policies—it's their messaging.

Between the immensities

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Joey Connolly aka "Pepe Batbon" is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is the Poet Laureate of Tinian and enjoys stargazing.

The win or lose blues/more or less booze

EXPOSITION, a quote from a song by Bob Dylan
"I wish that for just one time, You could stand inside
my shoes. And just for that one moment I could be you"
—Excerpt from Positively 4th Street, released 1965.

DEVELOPMENT, a sonnet by Joey Connolly
I'll drink when I'm thirsty and vote when I'm dry
Just give me a number and the candidates name
If they lose the election I'll stay home and get high
And keep the money you gave me I have no shame
I'll vote for my aunties, uncles, or my first cousin
I'll vote for any candidate who can give me a job
Extended families offer me more than a dozen
So sometimes I stay home and remain a fat slob.

Those were my days as a wise guy young pup
Now I live life in a completely different situation
I have two children, a job, I have now grown up
I am proud of my middle-age stage of maturation
Election's over, campaign was fun while it lasted
So I blow some weed, drink beer, and get blasted.

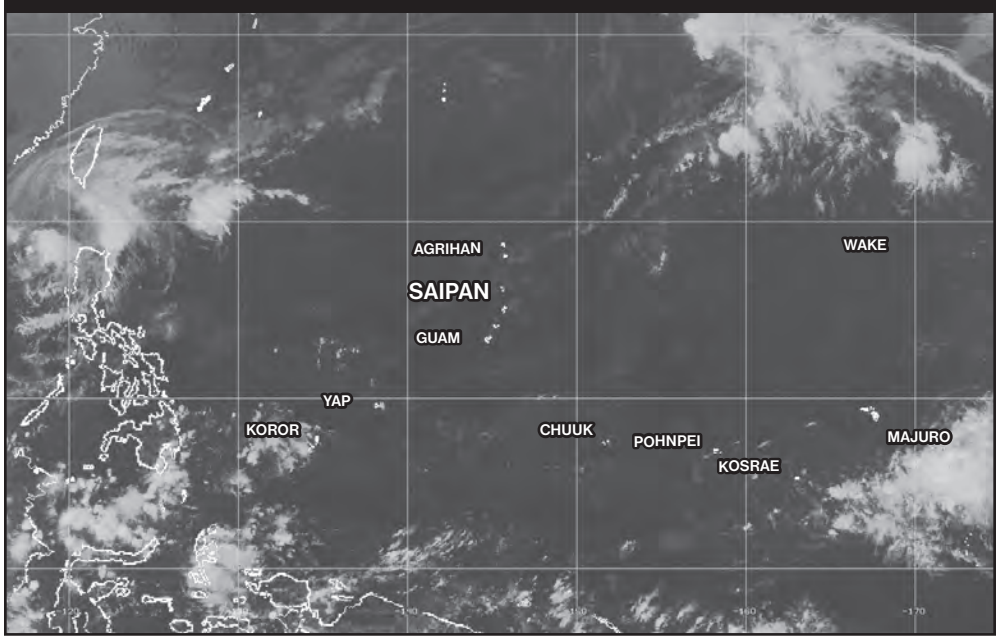
CODA, a limerick by Joey Connolly
With lots of candidates it is hard to pick and choose
Sometimes I don't even care who will win or lose
The only thing I really truly lose is my bloated ego
There are many more elections ahead so here we go
My dilemma is whether to drink more or less booze.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
solated showers. Mostly sunny. East northeast wind 11 to 14 mph.	Mostly sunny.	Mostly sunny.	Mostly sunny.	Mostly sunny.
85º 79º	86º 79º	86º 79º	87º 79º	86º 79º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:44 AM MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery and Doppler Radar show next to nothing of note in the area and little upstream from the Marianas. Seas remain around 4 to 6 feet and winds remain gentle to moderate. Only minor tweaks, were needed to the forecast last night. The only real change was the drop in POPs today down to 10 percent.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Fair	88° / 77°
Palau	Light Rain Shower	87° /80°
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	89° / 82°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	90° / 82°
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	89° / 76°
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 80°
Majuro	Light Rain/Wind	84° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:20 AM	5:43 PM
Wednesday	6:21 AM	5:43 PM
Thursday	6:21 AM	5:43 PM
Friday	6:22 AM	5:43 PM
Saturday	6:22 AM	5:43 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	9:34 AM	8:57 PM
Wednesday	-	10:30 AM	9:57 PM
Thursday	-	11:19 AM	10:53 PM
Friday	-	12:02 PM	11:46 PM
Saturday	-	12:40 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	70° / 54°
Beijing	Fair	53° / 28°
Hong Kong	Fair	78° / 73°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	82° / 68°
London	Mostly Sunny	48° / 37°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	69° / 52°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	91° / 80°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	82° / 61°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	79° / 73°
New York	Clear	64° / 46°
Osaka	Cloudy	55° / 41°
Paris	Cloudy	54° / 37°
Busan	Sunny	62° / 40°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	64° / 43°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	68° / 48°
San Francisco	Sunny	59° / 45°
Seoul	Sunny	50° / 31°
Tokyo	Cloudy	74° / 55°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	60° / 43°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:48 AM	Low Tide	-0.72
11:19 AM	High Tide	1.79
4:34 PM	Low Tide	1.25
8:48 PM	High Tide	1.70

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	1:20PM	4:00PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA183	7:55PM	9:50PM	Daily
UA193	7:55PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA076/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	2:30AM	6:25AM	Daily
7C3212	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	3:05AM	5:55AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	10:05PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	00:40AM	6:25AM	3, 6
PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	10:55PM	4:40AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184	00:40AM	8:50AM	3, 6 via Guam
UA192/174	10:40PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:55PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3407	11:20PM	3:30PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3211	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
TW307	8:00PM	1:30AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	6:25PM	1:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

$20,830 donated to Make-A-Wish Guam and CNMI

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Bank of Guam, in partnership with IP&E, IT&E, and Pacific Points is honored to donate $20,830 to Make-A-Wish Guam and CNMI.

The donation is through proceeds from the 4th Annual Visa Marianas Classic Golf Tournament, held on May 25, 2024, at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort on Saipan. The event brings together community members, amazing players, generous sponsors, and numerous volunteers for more than just a round of golf, but to make a difference in the lives of Wish Kids and their families in our island communities.

"For over 35 years, Make-A-Wish has been granting life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses, providing hope and strength to them and their families. Every year, the Visa Marianas Classic grows stronger thanks to the amazing support of our community. We're inspired by this collective effort to help grant wishes and bring hope and smiles to children facing challenging times. Thank you to everyone who played a role in making this year's tournament a success and showing what we can accomplish together," said Joaquin P. L.G. Cook, president and CEO, Bank of Guam and VMC honorary co-chair.

"More than just a day of golf, the Visa Marianas Classic highlights the power of community and giving back in a meaningful way. We're proud to work alongside great partners, sponsors, and volunteers to help make wishes come true for children in the Marianas," said Jim Beighley, CEO, Citadel Pacific and VMC honorary co-chair.

"There's something truly special about coming together, having fun, and building partnerships to make a difference in the lives of children. We're proud to support Make-A-Wish and give back in a way that brings hope and joy to Wish Kids and their families. We appreciate everyone who makes this event unforgettable year after year!" said David Gibson, CEO, IT&E and VMC honorary co-chair.

Bank of Guam, IP&E, IT&E, and Pacific Points extends their appreciation to all the generous community partners who made the Visa Marianas Classic a success. Thank you to hole-in-one sponsors Atkins Kroll, Joeten Motors, and Pacifica Insurance Underwriters; Star Sponsor United; and in-kind sponsors All Star Sporting Goods, The Athlete's Foot, Bridge Capital, Crowne Plaza Resort, Coral Ocean Point Resort, Kensington Hotel, MarPac, and Robert Torres Law Office. ***(PR)***

» Proceeds from 4th Visa® Marianas Classic Golf Tournament on Saipan
1234
Pay to the Order of Make-A-Wish Guam & CNMI $ 20,830.00
Twenty thousand eight hundred thirty only DOLLARS
Visa Marianas Classic
MEMO Golf Tournament

BOG

In the spirit of community partnership, Bank of Guam, IP&E, IT&E, and Pacific Points donated $20,830 from the Visa Marianas Classic to Make-A-Wish Guam and CNMI, Pictured, from left, Kaye Tenorio, credits officer IV, Bank of Guam; Jack Salas, terminal manager, Saipan, IP&E; Lesley Leon Guerrero, senior vice president, chief experience officer, Bank of Guam and board treasurer, Make-A-Wish Guam and CNMI; Jay Santos, general manager Wholesale Foods, Triple J Five Star and board director, Make-A-Wish Guam and CNMI; Paul Guerrero, enterprise sales assistant manager, IT&E; and Tania David, vice president, branch manager, Bank of Guam.

What to know about the congressional push to expand some Social Security benefits

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House has passed legislation that would provide full Social Security benefits to millions of people, pushing it one step closer to becoming law.

The Social Security bill on Tuesday won bipartisan support in the House, 327-75, in what is now the lame-duck period for Congress. The bill now heads to the Senate, where passage is not assured despite considerable support.

Here's what to know about the legislation and what could happen next.

WHAT DOES THE BILL DO?

Decades in the making, the bill would repeal two federal policies—the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset—that currently limit Social Security payouts for roughly 2.8 million people, according to reports from the Congressional Research Service.

The policies broadly reduce payments to two groups of Social Security recipients: people who also receive a pension from a job that is not covered by Social Security and surviving spouses of Social Security recipients who receive a government pension of their own.

People who worked in state, local and federal government jobs have been heavily affected by the policies, as have teachers, firefighters and police officers, according to lawmakers and advocates.

Both provisions would be repealed by the bill, thereby increasing Social Security payments for many.

AP

The Capitol is pictured, Friday, Nov. 15, 2024, in Washington.

WHAT WOULD BE THE COST OF EXPANDING THE BENEFITS?

The budgetary effect of the legislation is considerable, adding an estimated $195 billion to federal deficits over 10 years, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

That means more fiscal strain on the Social Security Trust funds, which were already estimated to be unable to pay out full benefits beginning in 2035. Some conservatives in the House attempted to block the legislation due to its cost.

Supporters of the bill in the House acknowledged the fiscal impact but said it was a matter of fairness.

"For more than 40 years, the Social Security trust funds have been artificially propped up by stolen benefits that millions of Americans paid for and that their families deserve," said Reps. Garret Graves, R-La. and Abigail Spanberger, D-Va., the lead sponsors of the bill in the House.

"The time to put an end to this theft is now," they said.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The Social Security bill has 63 sponsors in the Senate—a significant tally because 60 votes are needed to pass most legislation in the chamber.

Sens. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, and Susan Collins, R-Maine, the lead sponsors, have urged colleagues to take up the bill as soon as possible.

But the Senate has a jam-packed schedule in the remaining weeks of the year, with government funding, disaster relief and an annual must-pass defense bill likely to eat up considerable floor time.

If passed by the Senate, the bill would go to President Joe Biden. If the bill is signed into law, the changes would be effective for benefits payable after December 2023.

But if the bill doesn't pass the Senate by Jan. 3, when a new session of Congress begins, it would expire and supporters would have to start over.

Trump names Brendan Carr, senior GOP leader at FCC, to lead the agency

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—President-elect Donald Trump on Sunday named Brendan Carr, the senior Republican on the Federal Communications Commission, as the new chairman of the agency tasked with regulating broadcasting, telecommunications and broadband.

Carr is a longtime member of the commission and served previously as the FCC's general counsel. He has been unanimously confirmed by the Senate three times and was nominated by both Trump and President Joe Biden to the commission.

The FCC is an independent agency that is overseen by Congress, but Trump has suggested he wanted to bring it under tighter White House control, in part to use the agency to punish TV networks that cover him in a way he doesn't like.

Carr has of late embraced Trump's ideas about social media and tech. Carr wrote a section devoted to the FCC in "Project 2025," a sweeping blueprint for gutting the federal workforce and dismantling federal agencies in a second Trump administration produced by the conservative Heritage Foundation.

Trump has claimed he doesn't know anything about Project 2025, but many of its themes have aligned with his statements.

Carr said in a statement congratulating Trump on his win that he believed "the FCC will have an important role to play reining in Big Tech, ensuring that broadcasters operate in the public interest, and unleashing economic growth."

"Commissioner Carr is a warrior for Free Speech, and has fought against the regulatory Lawfare that has stifled Americans' Freedoms, and held back our Economy," Trump said in a statement on Sunday. "He will end the regulatory onslaught that has been crippling America's Job Creators and Innovators, and ensure that the FCC delivers for rural America."

The five-person commission has a 3-2 Democratic majority until next year, when Trump gets to appoint a new member.

Carr has made appearances on Fox News Channel, including when he slammed Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris' appearance on "Saturday Night Live" the weekend before the election—charging that the network didn't offer equal time to Trump.

Also a prolific writer of op-eds, Carr wrote in an opinion piece for The Wall Street Journal last month decrying an FCC decision to revoke a federal award for Elon Musk's satellite service, Starlink. He said the move couldn't be explained "by any objective application of the facts, the law or sound policy."

World

Russia grinds deeper into Ukraine after 1,000 days of grueling war

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—When Russian tanks rolled into Ukraine in February 2022, the conventional wisdom was that the capital, Kyiv, would soon fall and the rest of the country wouldn't last long against a much larger enemy.

Instead, it was that narrative that quickly collapsed. The Ukrainian army proved it could slow the advance of Russia's forces and, if not drive them out completely, then—with enough support from the West—at least forestall defeat.

But nearly three years later, the outlook is again grim. Russia is expending huge amounts of weaponry and human life to make small-but-steady territorial gains to the nearly one-fifth of Ukraine it already controls. Ukraine, meanwhile, is struggling to minimize losses, maintain morale and convince allies that, with more military aid, it can turn the tide.

As this brutal war of attrition grinds toward its 1,000th day, neither side seems eager to negotiate. President-elect Donald Trump has said he could quickly end the war, though it is unclear how or in whose favor he might tip the scales.

This backdrop appears to be driving Russia's strategy in eastern Ukraine, according to Phillips O'Brien, a professor of strategic studies at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland. Trump could try to force an end to the war by halting the supply of weapons to Ukraine, he said.

"If Trump cuts aid to Ukraine and a cease-fire leads to a frozen conflict, Russia wants to secure as much territory as it can now," O'Brien said.

For Ukraine, the key to any cease-fire would be guarantees from the West that it won't allow Russia to re-invade in the future. Otherwise, O'Brien said, "a cease-fire is a recipe for constant instability in Europe."

AP

An explosion is seen in an apartment building after Russian's army tank fires in Mariupol, Ukraine, Friday, March 11, 2022.

In the war's first year, Ukraine lost huge amounts of territory—but it also achieved notable victories. It resisted a much larger adversary with superior air power to survive as an independent country, and it reclaimed some land through gutsy counteroffensives, giving the underdog—and its wealthy allies—the confidence to stay in the fight.

In the second year, which was punctuated by Ukraine's devastating loss of Bakhmut and its failed counteroffensive, the armies essentially fought to a standstill along a 1,000 kilometer (620 mile) front line. Toward the end of that year, the U.S. Congress delayed the approval of a $61 billion package of aid for weapons, and economic and humanitarian assistance.

With Ukraine's ammunition dwindling, its outlook deteriorated significantly as the war's third year began. In February 2024, the town of Avdiivka fell after months of airstrikes by Russia, which used highly destructive Soviet-era bombs retrofitted with navigation systems.

The fall of Avdiivka created a major breach in Ukraine's defenses. When Russia later mounted an assault on the northeastern city of Kharkiv, Ukrainian troops were stretched further.

A bright spot for Ukraine came in August, when it launched a surprise incursion into Russia. It took—and still holds—hundreds of square kilometers in the Kursk region.

Biden authorizes Ukraine to use US-supplied longer range missiles for deeper strikes inside Russia

MANAUS, Brazil (AP)—President Joe Biden has authorized Ukraine to use U.S.-supplied missiles to strike deeper inside Russia, easing limitations on the longer range weapons as Russia deploys thousands of North Korean troops to reinforce its war, according to a U.S. official and three other people familiar with the matter.

The decision allowing Kyiv to use the Army Tactical Missile System, or ATACMs, for attacks farther inside Russia comes as President Vladimir Putin positions North Korean troops along Ukraine's northern border to try to reclaim hundreds of miles of territory seized by Ukrainian forces.

Biden's move also follows the presidential election victory of Donald Trump, who has said he would bring about a swift end to the war and raised uncertainty about whether his administration would continue the United States' vital military support for Ukraine.

The official and the others knowledgeable about the matter were not authorized to discuss the U.S. decision publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's reaction Sunday was notably restrained.

"Strikes are not made with words," he said during his nightly video address. "Such things are not announced. The missiles will speak for themselves."

Zelenskyy and many of his Western supporters have been pressing Biden for months to allow Ukraine to strike military targets deeper inside Russia with Western-supplied missiles, saying the U.S. ban had made it impossible for Ukraine to try to stop Russian attacks on its cities and electrical grids.

Zelenskyy's statement came shortly after he posted a message of condolence on Telegram following a Russian attack on a nine-story building that killed at least eight people in the northern city of Sumy, 40 kilometers (24 miles) from the border with Russia.

Russia also launched a massive drone and missile attack, described by officials as the largest in recent months, targeting energy infrastructure and killing civilians. The attack came as fears are mounting about Moscow's intentions to devastate Ukraine's power generation capacity before the winter.

"And this is the answer to everyone who tried to achieve something with Putin through talks, phone calls, hugs and appeasement," Zelenskyy said.

The comment appeared to be a dig at German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, who spoke Friday with Putin in the first such call with a sitting head of a major Western power in nearly two years.

Some supporters have argued that the limitation and other U.S. constraints could cost Ukraine the war. The debate has become a source of disagreement among Ukraine's NATO allies.

Biden had remained opposed, determined to hold the line against any escalation that he felt could draw the U.S. and other NATO members into direct conflict with nuclear-armed Russia.

Putin has warned that Moscow could provide long-range weapons to others to strike Western targets if NATO allies allow Ukraine to use their arms to attack Russian territory.

News of Biden's decision followed meetings over the last two days with the leaders of South Korea, Japan and China. The addition of North Korean troops was central to the talks, which took place on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Peru.

An Israeli strike in Beirut kills Hezbollah's spokesman, while a strike in Gaza kills at least 30

BEIRUT (AP)—A rare Israeli strike in central Beirut killed the Hezbollah militant group's chief spokesman on Sunday, while an Israeli strike in northern Gaza 's Beit Lahiya killed at least 30 people, a hospital director there told The Associated Press.

Mohammed Afif al-Naboulsi was killed in a strike on the Arab socialist Baath party's office in Beirut, Hezbollah confirmed in a statement. He had been especially visible after all-out war erupted between Israel and Hezbollah in September.

Israel's military in a statement said he "wielded significant influence over Hezbollah's military operations" and "glorified and incited" attacks on Israel.

It was the latest targeted killing of a senior Hezbollah official. On Sunday night, another strike in central Beirut hit a computer shop, killing two people and wounding 22, Lebanon's Health Ministry said. There was no immediate comment from Israel's military.

The strikes happened as Lebanese officials considered a United States-led cease-fire proposal. "This confirms the crimes of the Israeli enemy, and that it wants to negotiate under fire and is expanding and targeting safe and safer areas," said a Lebanese member of parliament, Faisal Al Sayegh.

Israel also bombed several buildings in Beirut's southern suburbs, where Hezbollah has long been headquartered, after warning people to evacuate.

There was no Israeli evacuation warning before the strike near a busy intersection that killed Afif. Four people were killed and 14 wounded including two children, the Health Ministry said.

"I was asleep and awoke from the sound of the strike, and people screaming, and cars and gunfire," said witness Suheil Halabi.

After the second strike in central Beirut, firefighters struggled to control the blaze in the busy residential neighborhood of Mar Elias. Bystanders said they heard a second explosion and a car nearby appeared to be hit.

Hezbollah began firing rockets, missiles and drones into Israel the day after Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023 attack ignited the war in Gaza. Israel launched retaliatory airstrikes in Lebanon and the conflict steadily escalated.

Israeli forces invaded Lebanon on Oct. 1. On Sunday, Israel's military said mobile artillery batteries had crossed into Lebanon and began attacking Hezbollah targets, the first time artillery was launched within Lebanese territory.

More than 3,400 people have been killed in Lebanon, according to the Health Ministry, and over 1.2 million driven from their homes. It is not known how many of the dead are Hezbollah fighters.

Hezbollah has fired dozens of projectiles into Israel daily. The attacks have killed at least 76 people, including 31 soldiers, and caused some 60,000 people to flee. Israel's Magen David Adom emergency service said a teenager suffered blast injuries Sunday in Upper Galilee.

Lebanon's army, largely on the sidelines, said an Israeli strike on Sunday hit a military center in southeastern Al-Mari, killing two soldiers and wounding two others. There was no immediate Israeli comment.

The director of the Kamal Adwan hospital in Beit Lahiya, Hosam Abu Safiya, said dozens were wounded in the Israeli strike and other people likely were under the rubble.

Fleeing residents told the AP that houses were hit. An Israeli military statement earlier said it conducted several strikes on "terrorist targets" in Beit Lahiya, and that efforts to evacuate civilians from the "active war zone" continued.

Life & Style

Dwayne Johnson's $200M-plus Christmas pic opens to $34.1M

AP

This image released by Prime shows Dwayne Johnson, left, and Chris Evans in a scene from "Red One.

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Moviegoers were not exactly feeling the Christmas spirit this weekend, or at least not based on their attendance at "Red One" showings.

The big budget, star-driven action comedy with Dwayne Johnson and Chris Evans sold $34.1 million in tickets in its first weekend in theaters, according to studio estimates Sunday. It easily topped a box office populated mostly by holdovers.

For traditional studios, a $34.1 million debut against a $200 million-plus production budget would be a clear indication of a flop. Some even peg the budget closer to $250 million. But "Red One" is an Amazon MGM Studios release with the luxury of playing the long game rather than relying solely on global box office where Johnson tentpoles often overperform. The film may have a life on Prime Video for years to come.

"Red One," in which Johnson plays Santa's bodyguard, was originally built to go straight-to-streaming. It was greenlit prior to Amazon's acquisition of MGM. One interpretation of its lifecycle is that the theatrical earnings are not only just a bonus, but an additive gesture toward struggling theaters looking for a consistent stream of new films.

"Amazon has 250 million plus worldwide subscribers to the platform. It's similar to the way Netflix, I think, looks at stuff for their platform," said Kevin Wilson, head of distribution for Amazon MGM Studios. "There's a there's a massive value for a movie like this in terms of how many eyeballs you're going to get."

The first major studio holiday release since 2018, "Red One" opened on 4,032 screens, including IMAX and other large formats, on an otherwise quiet weekend for major releases.

"We're really happy with the results," Wilson said. "I think when you look at the theatrical marketplace that's sometimes unforgiving, especially for original films, this is a good result for us."

Since 2020, only seven films that weren't sequels or based on another piece of intellectual property have opened over $30 million (including "Oppenheimer" and "Nope.")

Warner Bros. is handling the overseas release, where it has made an estimated $50 million in two weekends from 75 territories and 14,783 screens.

Still, it's certainly not a theatrical hit in North America. Even "Joker: Folie à Deux" made slightly more in its first weekend. "Red One," directed by Jake Kasdan and produced by Johnson's Seven Bucks, was roundly rejected by critics, with a dismal 33% Rotten Tomatoes score. Jake Coyle, in his review for The Associated Press, wrote that it "feels like an unwanted high-priced Christmas present."

Audiences were kinder than they were to "Joker 2," giving it an A- CinemaScore, suggesting, perhaps, that the idea of it becoming a perennial holiday favorite is not so off-base.

"Red One" is also overperforming in the middle of the country, Wilson said, and perhaps will have a nice holdover over Thanksgiving as a different option to the behemoths on the way.

Sony's "Venom: The Last Dance" added $7.4 million this weekend's box office to take second place, bringing its domestic total to $127.6 million. Globally, its total stands at $436.1 million.

Lionsgate's "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" landed in third with $5.4 million.

Victoria Kjær Theilvig of Denmark is crowned the 73rd Miss Universe

AP

Miss Denmark Victoria Kjær Theilvig, right, receives the crown after winning the 73rd Miss Universe Beauty Pageant in Mexico City, Saturday, Nov. 16, 2024.

MEXICO CITY (AP)— Victoria Kjær Theilvig of Denmark has been crowned Miss Universe.

Kjaer, an animal protection advocate who works in the diamond selling business, beat out Miss Nigeria at the end of 73rd edition of the competition in Mexico City. Miss Mexico placed third.

It is the first time a Danish contestant has won Miss Universe.

The pageant was held in the Mexico City Arena, an indoor venue with a capacity for 20,000 people. Supporters inside shouted and waved flags from countries around the world.

The ceremony began with 131 mariachi musicians and singer Taboo of the Black Eyed Peas playing "Mexicana", a song created by Emilio Estefan for the contest.

The gala was hosted by Mario López; Olivia Culpo, Miss Universe 2012; presenter Zuri Hall; and Catriona Gray, Miss Universe 2018.

Organizers said that there were more than 120 contestants.

This year some countries were represented for the first time, such as Belarus, Eritrea, Guinea, Macau, Maldives, Moldova and Uzbekistan.

This is the third time that Mexico has hosted Miss Universe.

Girlfriend's mother refuses to acknowledge reality

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my girlfriend, "Kim," for a year and a half. We are both in our 40s and very independent. Her mother struggles with our relationship because we are two women. She has told Kim our relationship is an embarrassment for her. She didn't know her daughter is a lesbian until we began seeing each other. Kim's mother has said that if I were a man, she would be thrilled. She knows I love her daughter and treat her well, but she can't get over the fact that we are gay.

I am perplexed about what to do. Our relationship is stable, and we are both happy, but this bothers both of us. I don't want Kim to feel torn between her mother and me, especially since we are discussing marriage. Is there anything I can do to ease the tension?

LOOKING FOR PEACE IN KENTUCKY

DEAR LOOKING: There is little to nothing you can (or should) do to ease Kim's mother's embarrassment. Parents have all sorts of dreams and ambitions where their children are concerned, but in the final analysis, adult children must live their own lives as they see fit.

A longtime, trusted organization called PFLAG exists for the precise purpose of building bridges between LGBTQ individuals and their family members. You can find it at pflag.org. However, until Kim's mother is willing to seek help to adjust to reality, there's nothing you or Kim can do other than let your happy life together be an example.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Two and a half years ago, I purchased a starter motorcycle and allowed someone I considered to be a good friend to ride it around the block. She fell in love with it and expressed that she would love to have it. I made an agreement with her that when I upgraded, I would sell her that bike.

A year later, I was able to purchase the one I wanted. I found out what the trade-in value for my original bike would have been and agreed to sell it to her at that price. I told her then to pay me as she was able, and I signed the title over to her. I did not draw up any bill of sale or contract. I now realize this may have been naive on my part.

Shortly after taking possession, she had an accident and totaled the bike. Her insurance did not pay, and she has hired a lawyer, saying it was the other person's fault. During this time, she has paid not one cent toward the bike, or even acknowledged that she owes me anything for it.

I struggle with confrontation, so I have yet to say anything, but a year and a half later, I think the time has come. I know legally there isn't much I can do, but I would like to say something to her. How can I address this without coming across as being difficult? We have grown apart but are still friendly.

BIKER CHICK IN TEXAS

DEAR BIKER CHICK: Try this: "It has been a year and a half since I sold you the bike. When do you plan to start paying me what we agreed upon?" It is a legitimate question.

■■■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY
BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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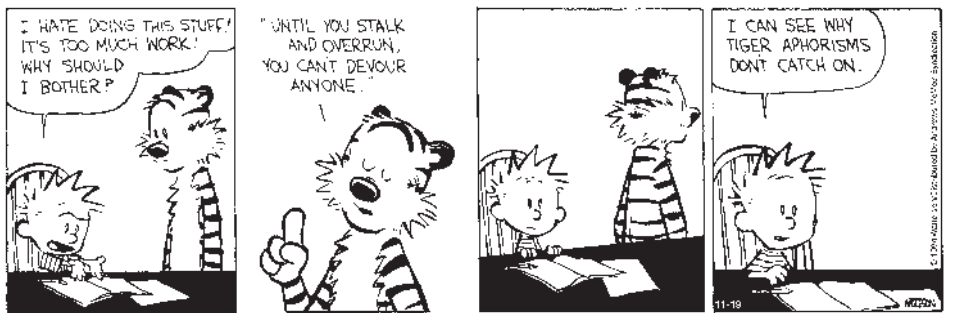
Pastimes

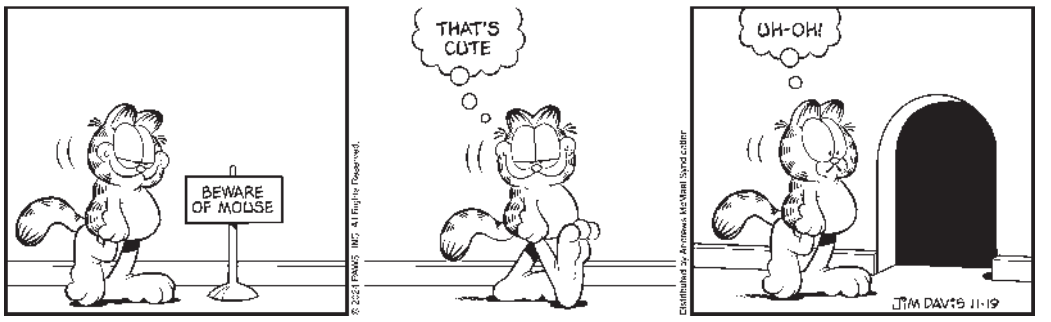
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I HATE DOING THIS STUFF! IT'S TOO MUCH WORK! WHY SHOULD I BOTHER?
"UNTIL YOU STALK AND OVERRUN, YOU CAN'T DEVOUR ANYONE."
I CAN SEE WHY TIGER APHORISMS DON'T CATCH ON.
11-19

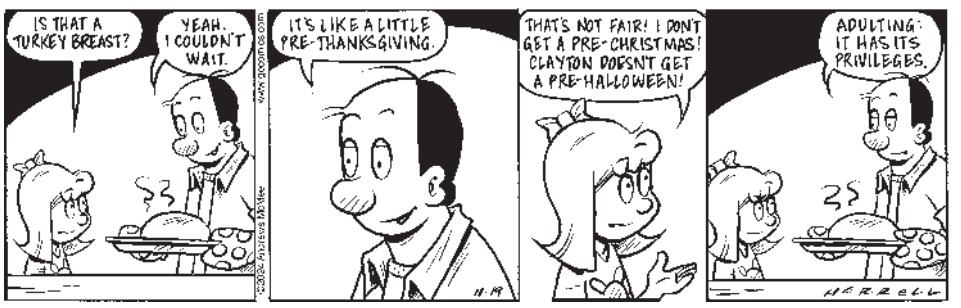
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


IS THAT A TURKEY BREAST?
YEAH. I COULDN'T WAIT.
IT'S LIKE A LITTLE PRE-THANKSGIVING.
THAT'S NOT FAIR! I DON'T GET A PRE-CHRISTMAS! CLAYTON DOESN'T GET A PRE-HALLOWEEN!
ADULTING: IT HAS ITS PRIVILEGES.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE IS A BIT HIGH. I WANT YOU TO START CHASING 5 TO 7 SQUIRRELS IN YOUR YARD A DAY.
THAT WILL LOWER MY BLOOD PRESSURE?
IT WORKED FOR ME.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Deer little one?
5 Matching pair
8 Beliefs
12 Footnote abbr.
13 Sch. founded by Jefferson
14 Tide type
15 Pre-Cretaceous time
17 Story
18 Mineral suffix
19 Actor Penn
20 Goofed
21 Novelist Rand
22 "Moonlight" actor Mahershala
23 Tea biscuit
26 Less matte
30 La Scala solo
31 "Homeland" org.
32 Pouchlike parts
33 Beer can opener
35 Wine grape
36 Lass
37 Buddy
38 Paint base
41 French pronoun
42 Egos' counterparts
45 Singer Tori
46 Like Fuller's dome
48 Hindu royal
49 Leb. neighbor
50 Edison's middle name
51 Sir Guinness
52 Xenon, for one
53 500 sheets

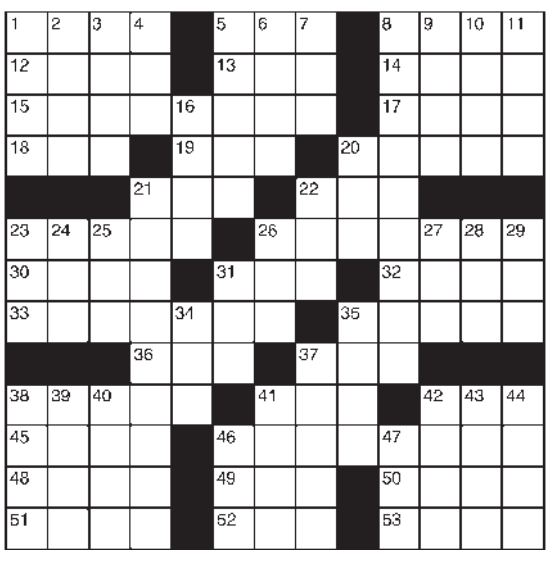
DOWN

1 South Pacific nation
2 Border on
3 Telegram
4 Secret-protecting doc.
5 Writer Sontag
6 Satan's forte
7 Tic- — -toe
8 Essential
9 Blacken
10 Like ganders
11 Raced
16 Terrier type
20 Yale grad
21 Pain reliever
22 "Now I get it!"
23 Potential syrup
24 French vineyard
25 Black gold
26 Bro or sis
27 007 creator Fleming
28 Green prefix
29 Letters after Q
31 — Tech
34 Levy
35 Invoice stamp
37 Ties up, as a boat
38 Croft of video games
39 Human rights lawyer Clooney
40 Vocal quality
41 Butte's kin
42 Capri, e.g.
43 Prima donna
44 Con job
46 Showbiz job
47 Oft-pierced body part

Solution time: 22 mins.

S	P	A			U	S	S		E	U	R	O
H	A	L	E		M	O	O		A	H	I	D
A	N	A	C		P	U	B		S	I	D	E
H	E	I	G	L		H	E	M	Y			
			S	I	A		R	E	T	A	I	L
A	S	T	O	U	N	D		H	O	R	N	E
S	L	A	V		G	O	V		P	A	C	E
T	A	C	E	T		T	O	O	L	B	A	R
A	M	I	H	A	K		W	E	E			
			E	P	I	C		D	A	W	N	S
H	E	I	A		I	H	Y		S	E	C	I
A	V	I	S		E	A	U		E	B	A	Y
D	E	N	Y		S	I	P			S	A	X

Yesterday's answer 11-19



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Adam Driver, 41; Jodie Foster, 62; Allison Janney, 65; Ann Curry, 68.

Happy Birthday: It's okay to step outside your comfort zone this year and learn something new to help you better grasp what's next or how to proceed more meaningfully. Communication is your ticket forward. Once you understand the concepts behind your choices, this knowledge will point you in the right direction. Push discord aside and put your energy where it promises the highest return. Educate, formulate and act. Your numbers are 6, 14, 20, 27, 34, 37, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Travel about and explore places nearby that offer something of interest. Communicate with locals, and the information you receive will provide insight into something that encourages you to socialize or reconnect with old, familiar faces. Set a budget before you venture into something that has hidden costs. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Take pride in what you do. Replace whatever you don't like with something you do. A critical look at yourself and your life will encourage you to revamp your current lifestyle, look or connections. Take control of your happiness and choose the path that allows you to be yourself. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* It's up to you to create opportunities. Use your energy wisely, learn all you can and endorse what you believe in, and you'll discover a path that facilitates your success. Pay attention to personal expenses and cut some corners. Discipline applied to spending, lifestyle and fitness will pay off. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Daydreaming will spark your imagination, but following through will take you where you want to go. Don't waffle; control your actions and press forward with enthusiasm and charisma. The people you encounter and the suggestions you receive will lead to victory. Personal gain and romance are favored. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* A temptation to share sensitive information will surface. Think twice before you cross a line. Keep the peace at all costs and choose intelligence and compassion over anger and pressure. It's time to build a solid base and embrace opportunities using positivity and goodwill to reach your destination. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Host an event, open your doors and help someone who needs direction or comfort. Don't let uncertainty stand between you and something you desire. Do your research, and you'll figure out the best way forward. Show your true colors, feelings and plans with kind gestures. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Take a moment to digest what's happening around you. Listen, absorb and observe how others react, and you'll know how to handle situations to ensure you get what you want. Refuse to let an emotional dispute disrupt you at home or work. Maintain your equilibrium and control the outcome. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Hold on to what you've got. Live in the moment, use your attributes to achieve your goals and trust in your ability to handle matters yourself. Stretch your imagination, and you will be satisfied with the results. Stick to the facts, budget and costs, and everything will fall into place. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Express yourself openly. Share your vision, but be willing to listen to the input you receive. Ultimately, you must do what's best for you and allow others the same privilege. A financial change or new location will give you the momentum you require to outmaneuver a challenge you face. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You'll make headway if you start a physical routine that ensures fitness, health or an appealing new look. Concentrate on being your best, and others will take notice. Recognize and use your attributes to dazzle someone you want to work with or are interested in getting to know better. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Avoid letting anyone push emotional buttons that set you off. Everyone is entitled to their opinion. Anger solves nothing, but going about your business and doing your part will offer peace of mind and make a difference. Be intelligent, mindful of others and ready to work. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Recognize what's real and what's fake. Exaggeration, excessive behavior and unrealistic expectations will interfere with the truth and figuring out what's best for you. Change is in your best interest. If you don't like what's happening around you, remove yourself from the situation. Love yourself. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are forceful, charismatic and unique. You are resourceful and intuitive.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

6		8			9		7	5
7	5	2			6	3	4	9
1			7			6	8	
	1	4				2		
3	2		8	6	5		1	
	6	7			1	5		
		6			8			
4		5	9				3	
2				7				

Difficulty: ★★ 11/19

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	5	4	9	8	1	6	2	3
3	2	6	7	5	4	9	8	1
8	1	9	2	3	6	4	5	7
9	6	3	4	2	8	1	7	5
2	4	1	5	6	7	8	3	9
5	7	8	3	1	9	2	4	6
6	3	7	1	4	2	5	9	8
1	9	2	8	7	5	3	6	4
4	8	5	6	9	3	7	1	2

Difficulty: ★ 11/18

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

WHAT'S IN YOUR REPERTOIRE? Solution: 9 letters

P	S	E	V	P	M	T	F	I	G	C	E	X	M	P
O	P	E	C	E	A	E	R	N	S	L	H	R	U	L
O	F	R	T	I	R	R	O	A	I	T	O	O	S	E
L	E	S	S	O	N	S	T	P	N	F	R	O	I	A
W	H	E	T	N	N	S	E	E	R	G	U	O	C	R
E	C	S	K	O	O	B	T	E	L	R	E	D	N	N
I	S	A	O	N	A	I	P	R	C	L	R	R	O	G
V	Y	S	R	N	W	A	T	E	U	A	A	I	I	S
R	M	A	D	T	I	A	T	I	M	M	T	B	L	Y
E	P	E	T	N	S	H	R	A	S	I	E	L	O	A
T	H	D	T	T	E	E	R	D	O	I	N	F	L	
N	O	I	U	A	S	E	H	U	A	K	P	I	T	P
I	N	D	T	U	P	I	A	C	S	N	L	M	R	S
G	Y	E	M	O	I	S	L	T	R	E	C	N	O	C
E	R	E	C	I	P	E	L	A	C	O	V	E	P	C

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Audition, Ballet, Band, Books, Chef, Choir, Composition, Concert, Crew, Dance, Drama, Draw, File, Gift, Group, Ideas, Instruments, Interview, Learn, Lessons, List, Music, Notes, Opera, Orchestra, Painting, Part, Perform, Piano, Pile, Plays, Poem, Pool, Portfolio, Range, Recipe, Résumé, Skills, Song, Source, Store, Strong, Study, Symphony, Theater, Verse, Vocal

Yesterday's Answer: Performance

For **WONDERWORD** apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367.

Allen's 26-yard run seals Bills' win ending Chiefs' bid at perfect season

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP)—Josh Allen ran for a 26-yard touchdown on fourth down with 2:17 left, sealing the Buffalo Bills' 30-21 win over the Kansas City Chiefs on Sunday and handing the two-time defending Super Bowl champions their first loss of the season.

James Cook rushed for two touchdowns and Allen threw a 12-yard TD pass to Curtis Samuel for Buffalo (9-2), which closed the gap on Kansas City (9-1) in the race for the AFC's top seed.

Patrick Mahomes and Chiefs were the NFL's last undefeated team and finally ran out ways to eke out one-score victories and overcome second-half deficits. The Chiefs had won 15 straight, including playoffs, since they fell 20-14 to the Las Vegas Raiders on Dec. 17, 2023.

The Bills have won six straight and moved closer to their sixth straight AFC East title.

AP

Buffalo Bills quarterback Josh Allen (17) is congratulated by teammate Dawson Knox (88) after scoring on a 26-yard run during the second half of an NFL football game against the Kansas City Chiefs Sunday, Nov. 17, 2024, in Orchard Park, N.Y.

PACKERS 20, BEARS 19

CHICAGO (AP)—Jordan Love ran for a go-ahead touchdown in the closing minutes, and Green Bay hung on to beat Chicago when Karl Brooks blocked Cairo Santos' 46-yard field goal attempt as time expired.

The Packers (7-3) made just enough plays to avoid falling farther behind Detroit and Minnesota in the NFC North and beat the last-place Bears (4-6) for the 11th straight time, the longest streak by either team in the storied rivalry.

Love put Green Bay on top 20-19 when he scored from the 1 with 2:59 left. That touchdown was set up by a 60-yard pass to Christian Watson, who got up after making a lunging catch and ran all the way to the 14. The 2-point conversion failed.

Green Bay then sacked Caleb Williams on the first two plays of the next possession. The Bears regrouped and drove all the way to the 28, only to end a chaotic week with their fourth straight loss when Brooks got through the center of the line and blocked Santos' kick.

STEELERS 18, RAVENS 16

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Chris Boswell tied a franchise record with six field goals and Pittsburgh limited Lamar Jackson and the NFL's top-ranked offense in a victory over Baltimore.

The Steelers (8-2) won their fifth straight behind Boswell and a defense that never let Jackson, Derrick Henry or the rest of the offense get into a rhythm, opening up a little breathing room atop the AFC North.

Baltimore (7-4) was held to season lows in points and yards (329) while committing 12 penalties and turning the ball over three times—each miscue leading to a Boswell field goal—as Pittsburgh won for the seventh time in its last eight meetings in a rivalry that remains as chippy as ever.

Jackson completed just 16 of 33 for 207 yards with a touchdown and an interception. He hit Zay Flowers for a 16-yard score with 1:06 left to get the Ravens within two but the 2-point conversion attempt was a mess. Jackson rolled to his left, tried to run then pulled up and threw a prayer to no one in particular that fell incomplete.

LIONS 52, JAGUARS 6

DETROIT (AP)—Jared Goff threw two of his four touchdown passes to Amon-Ra St. Brown, David Montgomery and Jahmyr Gibbs combined for three rushing touchdowns, as Detroit routes Jacksonville.

The NFC-leading Lions (9-1) have won eight straight and nine of their first 10 games in a season for the first time since 1934.

Detroit's winning margin of 46 points was the largest in franchise history, and it handed Jacksonville its biggest-ever defeat. The Lions also set a franchise record in total yards with 644.

The Jaguars (2-9) have lost four consecutive games for the second time this season and 14 of 17 since last year, a series of slumps that may cost coach Doug Pederson his job.

SAINTS 35, BROWNS 14

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Taysom Hill capped a 138-yard, three-touchdown performance on the ground with a 75-yard scoring run, and New Orleans improved to 2-0 under interim coach Darren Rizzi with a victory over Cleveland.

Hill's two other touchdowns went for 10 and 33 yards—the second on fourth and short—to more than balance out his two turnovers on an interception and fumble. The 34-year-old Hill also moved into ninth place in franchise history with 44 total TDs, four behind receiver Eric Martin.

Hill also completed an 18-yard pass and returned a kickoff 42 yards.

Derek Carr passed for 248 yards and two touchdowns for New Orleans (4-7), highlighted by Marquez Valdes-Scantling's 71-yard catch and run on a short crossing route.

RAMS 28, PATRIOTS 22

FOXBOROUGH, Mass (AP)—Matthew Stafford threw for 295 yards and four touchdowns, including a 69-yard score to Cooper Kupp on the second play of the second half to help Los Angeles pull away and beat New England.

New England trailed 14-10 after Rams kicker Joshua Karty's 26-yard field-goal attempt at the end of the first half clanged off the right upright. Los Angeles received the kick to start the second half, and on second down Stafford found Kupp near midfield; Patriots cornerback Jonathan Jones dove for the pass and missed, leaving no one between Kupp and the end zone.

The Patriots drove into Los Angeles territory, with a first-and-goal from the Rams 5, but settled for a field goal. On the Rams' next possession, Stafford found Colby Parkinson in the corner of the end zone to make it 28-13.

DOLPHINS 34, RAIDERS 19

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP)—Tua Tagovailoa threw three touchdown passes, De'Von Achane ran for a score, and Miami beat Las Vegas to win their second straight game.

It was another strong victory for the Dolphins (4-6), who have not matched their offensive fireworks from last season but are coming off a gritty Monday night win over the Rams. The Raiders (2-8) lost their sixth straight game.

Tagovailoa led the Dolphins down the field with long, methodical drives—three of them more than seven minutes—that all ended in scores, as Miami scored 30 points for the first time this season.

Tagovailoa completed 28 of 36 passes for 288 yards with touchdowns of 1 and 57 yards to tight end Jonnu Smith, and an 8-yard TD to receiver Tyreek Hill. Hill caught seven passes for 61 yards and has scored in consecutive games for the first time this season. Smith had a season-high 101 yards receiving.

The Raiders trailed 24-14 in the fourth quarter after Achane ran for a 2-yard score that added to his 17 carries for 73 yards.

COLTS 28, JETS 27

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Anthony Richardson ran for a 4-yard touchdown, his second of the game, with 46 seconds left in his return to the starting role to lift Indianapolis to a victory over Aaron Rodgers and New York.

With the Jets leading 27-22 after Anders Carlson's 35-yard field goal with 2:41 remaining, Richardson — benched for two games in favor of Joe Flacco—marched the Colts down the field.

He connected with Alec Pierce for 39 yards and then Josh Downs for 17 yards to put the ball at the 10. Three plays later, Richardson took off to the right and ran into the end zone for the go-ahead score. Jonathan Taylor was stuffed on the 2-point try—giving Rodgers and the Jets one last chance, but with no timeouts left.

VIKINGS 23, TITANS 13

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Sam Darnold overcame an early fumble by throwing for 246 yards and two touchdowns and running for a score and Minnesota beats Tennessee.

Darnold had been picked off five times over the previous two games, matching his total over the first seven games of the season. Then his toss to Aaron Jones on the Vikings' third offensive play was fumbled and recovered by Jeffery Simmons for the Titans.

The quarterback answered right back to help the Vikings (8-2) win their third straight and improve to 5-0 against AFC teams this season. He found Jordan Addison for a 47-yard catch-and-run touchdown as the Vikings didn't trail again as they scored 16 straight for a 16-3 halftime lead.

Andrew Van Ginkel had his two sacks on back-to-back plays as Minnesota finished with five. Pat Jones II also had two. Harrison Smith clinched the win with an interception with 1:50 left, giving the Vikings' fans that turned this into a near home game another reason to celebrate chanting "SKOL."

BRONCOS 38, FALCONS

DENVER (AP)—Bo Nix threw for 307 yards and a season-best four touchdowns, Javonte Williams got a push across the goal line from a half-dozen of his teammates, and Denver rolled past Atlanta.

Nix, who was 28 for 33, joined Hall of Famer Peyton Manning as the only rookie QBs in NFL history to throw for 200-plus yards with two or more touchdowns in four consecutive home games.

The Broncos (6-5) snapped a two-game skid and made it an unhappy homecoming for safety Justin Simmons, who spent his first eight seasons in Denver before the Broncos unloaded his $18.5 million salary last winter. Simmons signed a one-year, $7.5 million deal with the Falcons (6-5), who have lost two in a row.

Simmons had five tackles and tried to stop Williams at the 5-yard line, holding his ground for a second or two as reinforcements arrived from both teams for a shoving match that resembled a rugby scrum. The Broncos won it when they shoved Williams into the end zone to complete his 14-yard scoring run that gave Denver an early 14-3 lead.

SEAHAWKS 20, 49ERS 17

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)—Geno Smith scored on a 13-yard scramble with 12 seconds remaining and Seattle snapped a six-game losing streak against San Francisco with a victory.

Smith completed seven of eight passes for 65 yards to get the Seahawks (5-5) in position to score after taking over at their 20 with 2:38 remaining. He then ran it in against a depleted defense for the 49ers (5-5) that sorely missed injured edge rusher Nick Bosa on the final drive.

The win moved Seattle into a three-way tie for second place in the NFC West with San Francisco and the Rams, a game behind Arizona. The Niners have lost three division games, blowing fourth-quarter leads in all of them after dropping games earlier this season to the Rams and Cardinals.

CHARGERS 34, BENGALS 27

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP)—J.K. Dobbins rushed for a 29-yard touchdown with 18 seconds remaining, and Los Angeles beat Cincinnati after squandering a 21-point third-quarter lead.

Justin Herbert passed for 297 yards and two touchdowns, and rushed for 65 yards as the Chargers (7-3) won their fourth straight. Dobbins ran for two TDs.

Joe Burrow passed for 356 yards and three touchdowns, but the Bengals (4-7) suffered another excruciating loss. They have five defeats by seven points or fewer.

After its offense stalled for most of the second half, Los Angeles went 84 yards on four plays in 26 seconds on the decisive drive. Ladd McConkey, who had six receptions for a career-high 123 yards, had 28- and 27-yard grabs before Dobbins scored his eighth touchdown of the season.

Dobbins also scored from 1 yard out in the second quarter to extend Los Angeles' lead to 21-6. He finished with 56 yards on 11 carries.

Randle hits 3 at the buzzer to lift Timberwolves over Suns

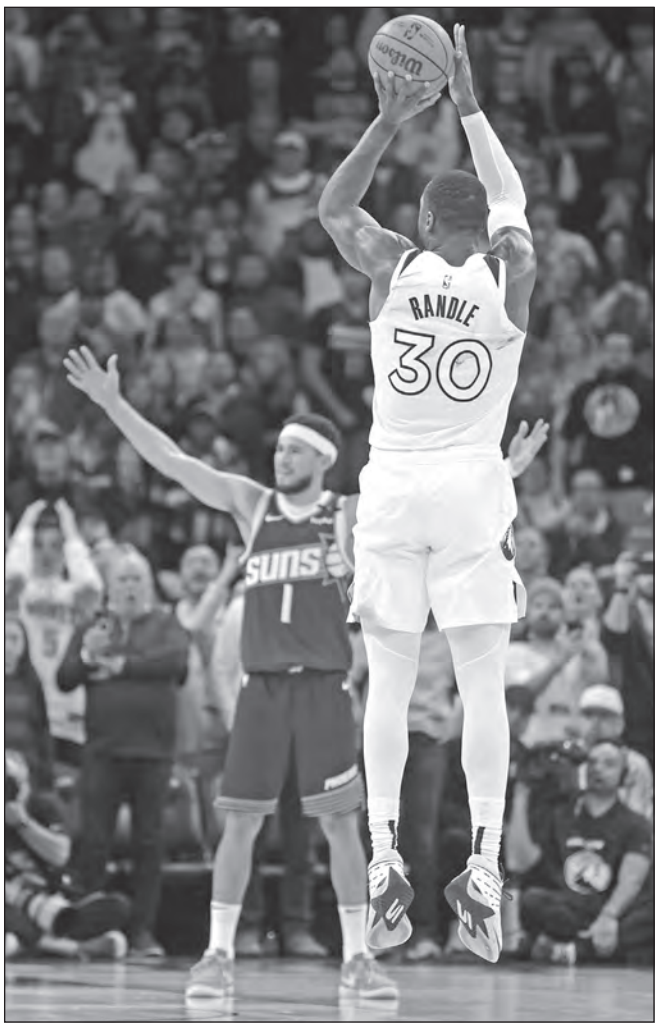
MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Julius Randle hit a buzzer-beating 3-pointer to cap his 35-point night and lift the Minnesota Timberwolves to a 120-117 win over the Phoenix Suns on Sunday afternoon.

Randle and the Wolves got the ball back with just 2.1 seconds remaining and called a timeout to advance the ball. The ball found Randle, who hit a 24-footer as time expired.

Minnesota overcame a season-high 44 points from Devin Booker, who needed to carry the offensive load for a Suns team still missing Kevin Durant and Bradley Beal with injuries.

Anthony Edwards added 24 points for Minnesota, most of that coming in the second half. He also picked up a technical foul on the same day he was fined by the league for an obscene gesture he made in Friday's win over Sacramento.

Grayson Allen scored 18 points off the bench for Phoenix, including a few 3-pointers in the fourth quarter.



AP

Minnesota Timberwolves forward Julius Randle (30) goes up to shoot a 3-point basket to defeat the Phoenix Suns as time ends in the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Nov. 17, 2024, in Minneapolis.

PACERS 119, HEAT 110

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Myles Turner scored a season-high 34 points, and Bennedict Mathurin added 21 points and 12 rebounds to lead Indiana to a victory over Miami.

Pascal Siakam added 23 points for the Pacers, who shot 52% from the field, and Tyrese Haliburton finished with 16 points and 13 assists.

Tyler Herro scored 28 points, and Bam Adebayo had 24 for the Heat, who were without six-time All-Star Jimmy Butler because of a sprained ankle. Miami was outscored 62-28 in the paint.

The Pacers bounced back from Friday's debacle, a 124-111 loss to the Butler-less Heat that coach Rick Carlisle said left him "ashamed." Indiana never trailed in the rematch.

CAVALIERS 128, HORNETS 114

CLEVELAND (AP)—Darius Garland scored 25 points, Ty Jerome matched his career-high with 24 in place of Donovan Mitchell and Cleveland stayed unbeaten with a win over Charlotte.

The Cavs are the fourth team to start 15-0, joining the Golden State Warriors (2016), Houston Rockets (1994) and Washington Capitols (1949). The Warriors set the league record by winning their first 24 games on the way to a 73-9 season.

Evan Mobley had 23 points and 11 rebounds and Jarrett Allen had 21 and 15 rebounds for Cleveland, which will play at defending champion Boston on Tuesday.

LaMelo Ball had 31 points and 12 assists, and Miles Bridges scored 19 for the Hornets.

PISTONS 124, WIZARDS 104

WASHINGTON (AP)—Cade Cunningham had 21 points, 10 assists and 10 rebounds to lead Detroit over Washingto.

Jaden Ivey scored 28 points and Malik Beasley added 26 for Detroit. Cunningham has four triple-doubles this season, two behind league leader Nikola Jokic.

It was the eighth straight loss for Washington, which was home after a five-game trip. Jordan Poole and Kyle Kuzma scored 22 points apiece for the Wizards.

Detroit held Washington to 18 points in the first quarter and led 65-53 at halftime. The lead was never in single digits after that, with the Pistons going on a 12-3 run to take an 85-64 advantage on a dunk by Jalen Duren.

Wizards center Alex Sarr, the No. 2 pick in this year's draft, had four points on 1-of-7 shooting.

GRIZZLIES 105, NUGGETS 90

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Jaren Jackson scored 20 points, and Memphis built a 24-point lead in the fourth quarter in a victory over short-handed Denver in the opener of a two-game set.

The teams will meet again Tuesday night in Memphis in an NBA Cup game.

Nuggets star center Nikola Jokic missed the game for personal reasons, while forward Aaron Gordon is recovering from a strained right calf. Denver has lost two straight.

Rookie Jaylen Wells added 15 points to help Memphis win its fourth straight home game. Desmond Bane had 11 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists.

Julian Strawther led Denver with 19 points. Christian Braun and Jamal Murray scored 13 points each, going a combined 11 of 26 from the field and 1 of 8 on 3s.

TRAIL BLAZERS 114, HAWKS 110

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Shaedon Sharpe had 32 points, including a key 3-pointer down the stretch, and Portland withstood a late rally by Atlanta for a victory.

Dalano Banton added 23 points for Portland, which has won its last three games.

Portland led 94-81 heading into the last period, but the Hawks went on a 10-0 run to get within 99-96 before Trae Young's 3-pointer tied it at 99. Young made another 3 that gave Atlanta a 102-101 lead.

Sharpe's shot-clock beating 3-pointer with 1:03 left put Portland ahead 109-108, and the Blazers hung on the rest of the way. Sharpe had Portland's last 11 points.

KNICKS 114, NETS 104

NEW YORK (AP)—Karl-Anthony Towns returned from a one-game absence with 26 points, 15 rebounds and six assists, and New York completed a two-game weekend sweep of Brooklyn with a victory.

OG Anunoby had 24 points and eight rebounds for the Knicks, who were without Towns because of a bruised left knee when they beat the Nets 124-122 on Friday on Jalen Brunson's 3-pointer with 6.2 seconds remaining.

Mikal Bridges added 21 points and Josh Hart had 20 points, eight rebounds and eight assists for the Knicks, who beat their city rivals for the eighth straight time. Brunson finished with just 12 points, shooting 3 for 14, but had 10 assists.

Cam Johnson scored 22 points for the Nets, who dropped their third straight.

ROCKETS 143, BULLS 107

CHICAGO (AP)—Fred VanVleet scored a season-high 28 points, Alperen Sengun scored 20 while pulling down 11 rebounds and posting 11 assists for his second triple-double this season, and Houston routed Chicago for their fifth straight win.

Jalen Green scored 18 points as all five Houston starters reached double-figures and the Rockets topped their previous season-high in points (128). Houston bench ace Amen Thompson played despite right quad soreness and added 16 points and 11 rebounds.

The Rockets dominated in the paint at both ends and pulled in 75 rebounds to Chicago's 56.

Zach LaVine led Chicago with 15 points and was the only starter to reach double figures. Talen Horton-Tucker scored 12 off the bench as the Bulls dropped their second straight and third in four.

MAVERICKS 121, THUNDER 119

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—P.J. Washington had 27 points and a career-high 17 rebounds, and Dallas held off Oklahoma City without star guard Luka Doncic.

Washington averaged just over eight points and seven rebounds per game entering Sunday's game but stepped up in the absence of Doncic, who was out with a bruised right knee.

The Mavericks' offense purred anyway. Kyrie Irving scored 23 points and helped Dallas shoot 48% from the field.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 36 points and Jalen Williams added 27 for the Thunder, who entered the night with a Western Conference-best 11-2 record. The Thunder are now 3-1 without Chet Holmgren.

CLIPPERS 116, JAZZ 105

LOS ANGELES (AP)—James Harden moved into second place on the NBA's career 3-point list and had 20 points and 11 assists to help Los Angeles beat Utah to end a three-game losing streak.

Harden moved past Ray Allen with No. 2,874 with 6:08 left in the first quarter as Los Angeles jumped out to a 35-25 lead. The only player ahead of Harden—who was 2 of 8 from 3-point range—is Golden State's Stephen Curry at 3,782.

The Clippers led 66-45 at halftime and weathered a late run when the Jazz pulled within seven points with 3:18 remaining.

Ivica Zubac had 22 points and 11 rebounds for Los Angeles, and Norman Powell added 18 points. The Clippers led by 23 points in the first half to win their fourth consecutive game in the new Intuit Dome.

Jordan Clarkson scored 21 points for Utah, and Lauri Markkanen had 18 points and 10 rebounds. They are 0-2 on a four-game trip.

NBA BRIEFS

NBA fines Bucks coach Doc Rivers for comments about call refs admitted they got wrong

NEW YORK (AP)—Doc Rivers was right. It still cost him $25,000. Rivers, the coach of the Milwaukee Bucks, was fined by the NBA on Sunday, a day after he publicly criticized the officiating that led to the deciding points in a 115-114 loss to the Charlotte Hornets. Rivers argued Giannis Antetokounmpo didn't commit a foul with the Bucks trailing by one with 7.3 seconds left, saying Charlotte's LaMelo Ball simply slipped and fell. Ball made two free throws to give Charlotte the lead for good. "I thought the final play was the ref blowing a call," Rivers said after that game. "This is back-to-back games now where on the final play there has been an incorrect call made." It wasn't relevant that the referees wound up agreeing with Rivers. "During live play we called illegal leg-to-leg contact," crew chief Curtis Blair told a pool reporter in remarks distributed by the NBA. "During postgame review when we looked at the play there was no illegal contact on the play." Antetokounmpo's jumper at the buzzer rimmed out and the Hornets escaped with the win. Ball was fined $100,000 on Sunday for using an anti-gay slur in his postgame remarks, when asked to describe Charlotte's defense on the final play against Antetokounmpo. The Bucks argued about late-game officiating this past Wednesday as well, when Antetokounmpo was whistled for a phantom call with a second left in regulation and the score tied at 111 against Detroit. Pistons forward Ron Holland II missed two free throws after that call, the game went into overtime and the Bucks prevailed 127-120 behind 59 points from Antetokounmpo. "We were lucky in Detroit the kid missed two free throws," Rivers said Saturday. "Tonight, LaMelo Ball made the free throws."

Tatum traveled before making game winner to lift Boston over Toronto, NBA says

NEW YORK (AP)—Jayson Tatum traveled moments before making the deciding 3-pointer at the overtime buzzer to give the Boston Celtics a 126-123 victory over the Toronto Raptors on Saturday night, the NBA said. Tatum moved his pivot foot with 3.4 seconds left in overtime and should have been called for traveling, the NBA revealed Sunday in its Last Two Minute Report. The NBA publicly releases reports of officiated events—calls and notable non-calls—when games were at or within three points at any time in the last two minutes of the fourth quarter or overtime. The uncalled travel was one of two missed calls on the final possession. The NBA also said Toronto's Davion Mitchell should have been called for a foul against Boston's Jaylen Brown with 7 seconds remaining. Had that been called, Brown would have gone to the foul line with the score tied at 123. Play continued after Brown was knocked backward, with Tatum already having the ball in his hands on the right wing. He shuffled his feet—that was the uncalled travel—before stepping back and shooting over Toronto's Ochai Agbaji. Time expired as Tatum's shot made its way to the basket.

Tampa Bay Rays to play 2025 season at Yankees' spring training field in Tampa

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—The Tampa Bay Rays will play their 2025 home games at the New York Yankees' nearby spring training ballpark amid uncertainty about the future of hurricane-damaged Tropicana Field, Rays executives told The Associated Press.

Stuart Sternberg, the Rays' principal owner, said in an interview that Steinbrenner Field in Tampa is the best fit for the team and its fanbase. At about 11,000 seats, it's also the largest of the spring training sites in Florida.

"It is singularly the best opportunity for our fans to experience 81 games of major league Rays baseball," Sternberg said. "As difficult as it is to get any of these stadiums up to major league standards, it was the least difficult. You're going to see Major League Baseball in a small environment."

Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said the Rays-Yankees deal is good for the sport and the Tampa Bay region.

"This outcome meets Major League Baseball's goals that Rays fans will see their team play next season in their home market and that their players can remain home without disruption to their families," Manfred said in a news release.

The Rays' home since 1998, the domed Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg was hit hard by Hurricane Milton on Oct. 9, with most of its fabric roof shredded and water damage inside. The city of St. Petersburg, which owns the Trop, released an assessment of the damage and repair needs that estimated the cost at $55.7 million if it is to be ready for the start of the 2026 season.

AP

The New York Yankees host the Detroit Tigers during their home opener spring training baseball game at George M. Steinbrenner Field, Sunday, March 20, 2022, in Tampa, Fla.

The work would have to be approved by the city council, which earlier this year voted for a new $1.3 billion, 30,000-seat stadium to replace Tropicana Field beginning in 2028. The new stadium is part of a much larger urban revitalization project known as the Historic Gas Plant District—named for the Black community that once occupied the 86 acres (34 hectares) that includes retail, office and hotel space; a Black history museum; and restaurants and bars.

Amid all the uncertainty, the Rays know one thing: they will play 2025 in a smallish, outdoor ballpark operated by one of their main American League East division rivals. A ballpark with a facade mimicking that of Yankee Stadium in the Bronx and festooned with plaques of Yankee players whose numbers have been retired.

Brian Auld, the Rays co-president, said in an interview that Tampa Bay has to be ready for a regular-season MLB game March 27 against the Colorado Rockies, just three days after the Yankees break training camp.

"There will be a ton of work toward putting in our brand," Auld said. "The term we like to use for that is "Rayful' into Steinbrenner Field."

It will also come with some weather challenges in the hot, rainy Florida summer climate the Rays didn't worry about in their domed ballpark. The Rays averaged about 16,500 fans per game during the 2024 season.

The Yankees will receive about $15 million in revenue for hosting the Rays, a person familiar with the arrangement told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because that detail was not announced. The money won't come from Tampa Bay but from other sources, such as insurance.

Once known as Legends Field, Steinbrenner Field opened in 1996 on Tampa's north side. It is named for longtime Yankees owner George Steinbrenner, who ran a shipbuilding company in Tampa and died at his home there in 2010. One of his sons, Yankees executive Hal Steinbrenner, was instrumental in getting the deal done with the Rays, Sternberg said.

"This is a heavy lift for the Yankees. This is a huge ask by us and baseball of the Yankees," Sternberg said. "(Hal Steinbrenner) did not waver for one second. I couldn't have been more grateful."

Hal Steinbrenner said in a news release that the Yankees are "happy to extend our hand to the Rays" and noted that the team and his family have "deep roots" in the Tampa Bay area.

"In times like these, rivalry and competition take a back seat to doing what's right for our community, which is continuing to help families and businesses rebound from the devastation caused by Hurricanes Helene and Milton," he said.

Pro teams in New Orleans made similar season-long moves after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The NFL's Saints played home games at multiple locations for one season while the Superdome was repaired, and the NBA's then-New Orleans Hornets played two seasons in Oklahoma City.

The Tampa Tarpons, one of the Yankees minor league teams, play their home games at Steinbrenner Field during the summer. They will use baseball diamonds elsewhere in the training complex this season.

It's not the first time a big league team will host regular season games in a spring training stadium. The Toronto Blue Jays played part of the 2021 season at their facility in Dunedin because of Canadian government restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	11	3	.786	–
New York	7	6	.538	3½
Brooklyn	5	9	.357	6
Philadelphia	2	10	.167	8
Toronto	2	12	.143	9
Southeast Division				
Orlando	8	6	.571	–
Atlanta	6	8	.429	2
Miami	5	7	.417	2
Charlotte	5	8	.385	2½
Washington	2	10	.167	5
Central Division				
Cleveland	15	0	1.000	–
Detroit	7	8	.467	8
Indiana	6	7	.462	8
Chicago	5	9	.357	9½
Milwaukee	4	9	.308	10

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Houston	10	4	.714	–
Memphis	8	6	.571	2
Dallas	7	7	.500	3
San Antonio	6	8	.429	4
New Orleans	4	10	.286	6
Northwest Division				
Oklahoma City	11	3	.786	–
Denver	7	5	.583	3
Minnesota	8	6	.571	3
Portland	6	8	.429	5
Utah	3	10	.231	7½
Pacific Division				
Golden State	10	2	.833	–
L.A. Lakers	9	4	.692	1½
Phoenix	9	5	.643	2
Sacramento	8	6	.571	3
L.A. Clippers	7	7	.500	4

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	9	2	0	.818	320	214
Miami	4	6	0	.400	181	221
N.Y. Jets	3	8	0	.273	204	242
New England	3	8	0	.273	182	248
South						
Houston	6	4	0	.600	224	226
Indianapolis	5	6	0	.455	236	250
Tennessee	2	8	0	.200	170	263
Jacksonville	2	9	0	.182	208	316
North						
Pittsburgh	8	2	0	.800	233	162
Baltimore	7	4	0	.636	334	271
Cincinnati	4	7	0	.364	297	296
Cleveland	2	8	0	.200	162	248
West						
Kansas City	9	1	0	.900	240	191
L.A. Chargers	7	3	0	.700	220	145
Denver	6	5	0	.545	235	183
Las Vegas	2	8	0	.200	187	285

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Philadelphia	8	2	0	.800	259	179
Washington	7	4	0	.636	308	243
Dallas	3	6	0	.333	177	259
N.Y. Giants	2	8	0	.200	156	222
South						
Atlanta	6	5	0	.545	244	274
Tampa Bay	4	6	0	.400	279	266
New Orleans	4	7	0	.364	262	260
Carolina	3	7	0	.300	167	310
North						
Detroit	9	1	0	.900	336	177
Minnesota	8	2	0	.800	244	170
Green Bay	7	3	0	.700	250	213
Chicago	4	6	0	.400	194	187
West						
Arizona	6	4	0	.600	238	220
L.A. Rams	5	5	0	.500	213	239
San Francisco	5	5	0	.500	250	222
Seattle	5	5	0	.500	230	238

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TMS

From page 16

sixth and one more run in the last inning for a 12-3 final.

The Tatagas are made up of Damian Marchadesch, Damian Sablan, Dayton Marchadesch, Derrence Benjamin, Donovan Johnson, Dyson Danis, Jesus San Nicolas, Justin Garde, Kayden Lizama, Peter Camacho, Chance Sablan, Taylon Appleby, Brayden Otiwii, Joaquin Cangco, Zekiel Falig, Carl Hocog, Leon Neth, and Fransid Santos.

In other results that day, Chacha Ocean View Middle School Lancherus slipped past HMS II, 15-12, and Francisco M. Sablan Middle School Napu Riders beat Mount Carmel School Knights, 12-5.

Results of yesterday's games between Dandan Middle School Tottots and COVMS, and TMS vs. HMS II will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

SBL

From page 16

Dodgers, Blue Jays, and Marlins.

Games are played every 6:30pm. The first game tomorrow is set between the Pirates and the Dodgers. The next game is on Thursday between the Falcons and Brewers, and on Friday, the Blue Jays take on the Marlins.

After that, games are played every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. The post season is slated for February 10, 11, 17, and 18, with the best-of-three championship series on Feb. 24, 26, and 28 if needed.

SBL board member Shine Tenorio said of the upcoming league that it's "Looking to be a great season with teams pretty balanced. Pirates looking to repeat as last season's champion. [It's] just good to see the older guys on the field. [It] provides an opportunity for guys in their late 30s and up to play organized baseball. This season, players are eligible if they were born on calendar year 1985.

He then thanked Tan Holdings and the Northern Marianas Sports Association for their continued support of SBL and for the use of the facilities.

KINGFISHERS

From page 16

intense action as they scrambled for possession and as they came up empty in some scoring opportunities.

After a lot of back-and-forth, and great defense on both ends, only 6 points each would be scored by both teams. But the Kingfishers had a 1-point advantage throughout and held on to win, 15-14, with another clutch shot by Daikichy.

Daikichy contributed 4 points, while Frances Peter had one more point for 5 total markers. Meanwhile, Kim's losing effort led her to the bulk of her team's score at 12 points, while Guy Pudney contributed 2 towards= the end.

In other results that day, Koblerville Elementary School Umangs 2 defeated Mount Carmel School Knights, 29-5; Kagman Elementary School Blue Marlins trounced Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School Binadus, 37-3; Garapan Elementary School Mallards 2 shut down WSR 2, 24-8; Brilliant Star School beat San Vicente Elementary School Canaries 2, 11-4; KobES 1 blew out Grace Christian Academy Eagles, 65-4; GES 1 defeated MCS, 13-10; and SVES 1 slipped past WSR 2, 8-5.

WSR 2 15 – Peter 5, Rudolph 2, Castro 2, Camacho 2, N. Daikichy 2, J. Daikichy 2.

SIS 2 14 – Kim 12, Pudney 2.

Scoring by halves: 9-8, 15-14.

Allen's 26-yard run seals Bills' win ending Chiefs' bid at perfect season

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Tampa Bay Rays to play 2025 season at Yankees' spring training field in Tampa

PAGE 15

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The sluggers from the northside, the Tanapag Middle School Tatagas, ruled over their southside foe, Hopwood Middle School Hilitais, 13-2, in the PSS-NMI Softball Association Interscholastic Boys High School Fast Pitch Softball League 2024-2025 last Saturday at the Dandan Middle School softball field.

TMS rules over HMS in fast pitch softball

It was a rematch of sorts as both schools duked it out in the finals of the inaugural slow pitch softball league last season, with the Tatagas coming out on top.

In this matchup, the Tatagas got the better of the Hilitais once again in their first meeting this season.

The Tatagas' offense was quickly jump-started in the first inning from a solo homer by No. 2 batter Kayden Lizama, giving them a 1-0 advantage. Justin Garde, who was right behind him, got on base and was brought home for the second run to lead, 2-0.

HMS bats were quiet as the TMS pitcher allowed just three hits in two innings, and proceeded to strand those runners on base. The third inning wasn't much better for the Hilitais as they went down in order from ground outs and still had nothing to show.

Meanwhile, TMS rounded the bases twice more at the top of the third for a 4-0 lead. Then, the Hilitais finally broke through in the fourth from a homer by their pitcher Jesse Santos, for a 1-4 game. That was all they wrote though, while TMS went on another tear in the fifth with four runs to run away with the lead once again, 8-1.

The Hilitais could only find gaps and sprint their way twice in the fifth inning for a 3-8 game. The Tatagas then secured four more runs in the

See TMS on Page 15

LEIGH GASES
Tanapag Middle School's Damian Marchadesch leaps to make a catch that was a little too late as Hopwood Middle School's Eric Palacios Jr. slides into second base safely during their game in the PSS-NMI Softball Association Interscholastic Boys High School Fast Pitch Softball League 2024-2025 last Saturday at the Dandan Middle School softball field.

LEIGH GASES
Hopwood Middle School pitcher Jesse Santos steps on home plate in the nick of time as Tanapag Middle School's catcher fumbles the ball during their game in the PSS-NMI Softball Association Interscholastic Boys High School Fast Pitch Softball League 2024-2025 last Saturday at the Dandan Middle School softball field.

LEIGH GASES
Tanapag Middle School's Kayden Lizama sprints to second base after contact during their game against Hopwood Middle School in the PSS-NMI Softball Association Interscholastic Boys High School Fast Pitch Softball League 2024-2025 last Saturday at the Dandan Middle School softball field.

LEIGH GASES
Manny Sablan, right, swings at a ball during batting practice last Friday in preparation for the 2024 Saipan Baseball League Master's League tomorrow at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

SBL Masters League starts tomorrow

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The 2024 Saipan Baseball League Master's League season starts this Wednesday, Nov. 20, at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

There are six teams vying for the title this season, with last season's champions Pirates back and ready to defend their title.

There are two new master's teams—Brewers and Falcons, and returning teams

See SBL on Page 15

LEIGH GASES
William S. Reyes Kingfishers 2 player Aaleyah Iakopo runs down the court during one of their games in the 2024-2025 IT&E Interscholastic Co-ed Elementary School Basketball League at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Kingfishers 1 flutter past Geckos 2, 15-14

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

William S. Reyes Elementary School Kingfishers 1 fluttered past Saipan International Geckos 2, 15-14, in the 2024-2025 IT&E Interscholastic Co-ed Elementary School Basketball League last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

It was a neck-and-neck matchup from the jump ball as their short legs and arms took them as far as they could through the shortened court. It was a give and take with the lead with both teams taking turns at the basket, and soon, the Kingfishers sported just a 1-point lead.

SIS' Victoria Kim was a natural shooter and provided all 8 points for SIS, while Naliya Daikichy sank a 2-pointer that put them up by one, 9-8 at the end of the first half, despite SIS leading, 8-7.

The second half saw more

See KINGFISHERS on Page 15